



LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
455,000

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(30p)

BBC refuse to stop showing of IRA film

Howe request rejected in new 'trial by TV' row

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford

The BBC refused to yield to Government pressure and screened a documentary last night containing an interview with new witnesses to the SAS shooting of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar.

Mr. Michael Checkland, the corporation's director general and editor-in-chief, decided personally that the programme made for Northern Ireland viewers should be broadcast in spite of an official request by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, that nothing should be shown which might prejudice

the forthcoming inquiry into the IRA deaths.

Mr. Checkland said in a letter to Sir Geoffrey he had instructed that no film of the interviews with witnesses should be made available for transmission in Gibraltar.

The decision was supported by Mr. Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, who said he was satisfied the programme

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had been subject to proper editorial scrutiny by Mr. Checkland and his colleagues.

The 30-minute current affairs documentary, put together by BBC Northern Ireland's *Spotlight* team, was viewed in London yesterday afternoon by Mr. Checkland, Mr. Geraint Stanley Jones, managing director of regional broadcasting, Mr. Howell James, director of corporate affairs, Mr. John Wilson, controller of editorial policy, and Mr. Tony Jennings, the BBC legal adviser.

Mr. Checkland's decision, which comes only days after the IRA refused a request from Sir Geoffrey to postpone a *Times* television documentary about the Gibraltar killings, means the Government and broadcasters are locked in a damaging confrontation at a time when ministers are considering the future regulation of television.

Some form of Government regulation of television would appear likely, given the Prime Minister's much-publicised anger at what he considered to be the "television authorities' responsibility for indulging in a 'trial by television'".

Apart from evidence from a new witness who claimed the IRA bomb team in Gibraltar could have been taken alive, the programme corroborated evidence given by different witnesses in *Death on the Rock*, produced by the *Times* television *Spotlight* team.

Mr. Checkland said in his letter that the Gibraltar shootings and their aftermath were of special significance to the people of Northern Ireland and had led to a big cycle of violence in the province and elsewhere. The events had provoked a number of unanswered questions about what really happened, the subsequent handling of the affair by the authorities and, in particular, the need for a judicial inquiry.

The programme would include accounts of the incident which would serve as an introduction to an investigation of the wider issues involved, Mr. Checkland told Sir Geoffrey.

The *Spotlight* programme was intended for transmission only in Northern Ireland,

which was outside the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar Governor. It was part of the BBC's continuing commitment to a proper presentation of all the facts relating to issues which affected the lives of people in the province.

Mr. Checkland insisted that the Gibraltar incident was a proper subject for more considered journalistic inquiry. He said he trusted Sir Geoffrey would agree that much of the evidence from eye-witnesses to the events was already in the public domain.

He had instructed that no television film of potential interest to witnesses interviewed during the programme would be made available for transmission in Gibraltar. Any broadcaster requesting material from the BBC would be subject to a similar restraint. A copy of the programme would be made available to the coroner's court.

Mr. Hussey said the BBC board of governors would have an opportunity to discuss any issues that arose from the programme at their meeting next Thursday.

The Government would not comment on the BBC move last night. However, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Commons that television companies involved in making controversial programmes about the shooting of terrorists in Gibraltar could not accept the rule of law and then flout it.

Mrs. Thatcher said she would prefer it if the Government could rely on the television authorities to uphold the rule of law. It had not been the Government's intention when deciding to set up a broadcasting standards council to refer such questions to it.

"It was more with regard to standards of violence and matters of that kind that we



Mr. Michael Checkland, BBC director general, said the programme was "significant".

"I would prefer to think that we could rely on the television authorities properly to uphold the rule of law, which is the fundamental safeguard of the freedom of all of us. One cannot agree with the rule of law and then flout its conditions".

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Emotional welcome for freed French hostages



One of the freed hostages, M. Jean-Paul Kauffmann, being hugged by his family at a military airport near Paris yesterday.

Britain's fears of Iranian deal

By Nicholas Wood and Andrew McEwen in London and Philip Jacobson in Paris

The Prime Minister yesterday did little to allay backbench Conservative suspicions that France did a deal with Iran and Lebanese hostage takers to secure the release of its three captives from Beirut.

She told MPs that Britain had been informed by France that no ransom had been paid in return for their freedom, but the tenor of her remarks fell well short of unqualified approval of the surrounding circumstances.

Later, senior ministers said they were seeking clarification

Chirac boost 7
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of reports that the release of the three was linked to the unlocking of Iranian assets frozen in Paris.

In Tehran, the Iranian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Reza Moayeri added to the speculation when he told Tehran Radio: "For humanitarian reasons, we asked the Muslim people of Lebanon to help in the French problem and as a result the remaining French hostages were released. This humanitarian measure was taken in view of the developments after M. (Jacques) Chirac's election as Prime Minister and the observed positive attitudes towards Iran's declared conditions".

In Parliament, Mrs. Thatcher said: "We will not pay ransom or make payment of that kind for hostages to be released. We asked the French Government for an assurance and they have assured us that they have not paid a ransom".

Later, Mr. Peter Temple-Morris, a vice-chairman of the backbench Tory Foreign Affairs committee, said that his understanding was that some \$670 million (£360 million) of frozen pre-revolutionary Iranian assets had been repatriated in the last few days.

The French assurances were given personally by M. Jean-Bernard Raimond, the Foreign Minister to the British Ambassador in Paris, Sir Ewen Ferguson, and fell short of an outright denial that there had been any deal of any sort. He gave the more limited assurance that there had been no negotiations with the kidnappers.

In an apparent gesture towards London and Mrs. Thatcher the French Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, went out of his way yesterday to express hopes that there was now a better chance of freeing

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Sealink in appeal to crews for secret poll

By Tim Jones
David Sapsted
and Martin Fletcher

Sealink, whose ships have been strike-bound while P&O ferries sail past them at Dover, is pressing its 2,300 crew to undermine the negotiating authority of the leadership of the seamen's union by demanding a secret ballot on a return to work.

In Dover, where bitterness is dividing the town, a special team of detectives has been set up to counter a mounting campaign of intimidation against seamen who have returned to work.

Kent police disclosed that homes of 17 crew members had been attacked and that an apparently concerted campaign of abusive and threatening phone calls to seamen and their families is being conducted. The local branch of the National Union of Seamen condemned the incidents.

Three men who have broken the strike told *The Times* yesterday of their "perpetual fear" while at sea for the safety of their families left behind in Dover.

All of them bitterly criticised the handling of the dispute by the NUS and particularly the union's "failure" to honour a pledge made in a letter on January 22 that the outcome of negotiations with the company on new work rules would be "placed before the fleet by way of a postal ballot, and you alone will decide whether to accept or reject the offer".

During angry exchanges in the Commons, Mr. Michael Meacher, the shadow employment secretary, denounced P&O's "intransigence", claimed its actions were placing a sit in.

Continued on page 22, col 1

More nuclear plants in run-up to privatization

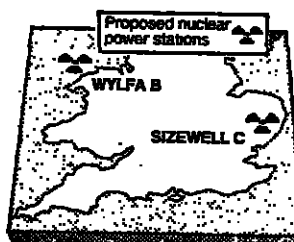
By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Fawley on Southampton Water and is close to making an important review of that project.

The announcement is designed to coincide with the official opening of the Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire on Tuesday by Lord Marshall of Goring, the chairman of the CEBG. The Drax station could be the last large coal-fired power station built with public funding.

Both the Hinkley Point and the Fawley station are needed early in the next century to meet growing demand for electricity in the southern half of the country and the two new nuclear stations to be announced next week will be needed to make up any shortfall.

The new proposals will themselves generate local planning opposition, but they will have the firm support of Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy.



Troops prepare to end Gdansk strike

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

Some 6,000 militiamen were getting ready last night to storm the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk where 3,000 strikers and Mr. Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, the banned trade union, are staging a sit in.

Those living near the shipyard have been asked to vacate their homes for the next 48 hours.

The preparations came less than a day after "anti-terrorist units" broke into parts of the Lenin steel works at Nowa Huta, on the outskirts of Cracow, and arrested members of the strike committee.

Several thousand steelworkers had been on strike for 10 days, demanding pay increases to offset dramatic price rises.

According to eyewitnesses, scores of workers were stunned by percussion grenades when the units entered the works at 4 am. Reports from Nowa Huta said many of

the workers were beaten up; others were made to kneel and sign documents saying that they would never go on strike again. However, Mr. Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, said: "No one received even a bump on the head".

A statement yesterday by Mr. Alfred Miodowicz, the Government's official union leader, implied that similar force would soon be used against the strikers at Gdansk. "We cannot protect those who strike outside the legal trade unions," he said.

There was more tension in Gdansk yesterday when hundreds of students staged a sit in at the university. In Warsaw, 4,000 students were also reported to be on strike.

Inside the Lenin shipyard, Mr. Walesa told journalists that he would "have to be carried out" should the authorities resort to force.

Gdansk braced, page 10

Slack voting despite the sun

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Voters went to the polls yesterday to decide the fate of 3,800 council seats with national opinion polls showing a closing of the gap between the two main parties. A quiet start was reported.

Labour, which had opened the local elections campaign hoping merely to hold on to its gains in the same seats when they were last contested in 1984, was hoping that recent government troubles in its own ranks on the poll tax and social security changes would

lead to further gains for the Opposition.

The Conservatives, who were talking less buoyantly than a few weeks before, when they predicted a number of gains from Labour, were hoping that the big pay award for nurses, Budget tax cuts and the recent concessions on social security would counteract the trend of recent opinion polls.

About 24 million voters were entitled to participate in yesterday's elections, although

only about 40 per cent were expected to do so. The contests covered all seats in the 53 Scottish districts, together with one third of the seats in the 36 English metropolitan districts, in 117 of the 296 non-metropolitan or shire districts and in five of the 36 Welsh districts.

Electoral registration officers reported polling was generally quiet during most of yesterday, despite bright weather across most of the country.

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Trade unions throughout industry see

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attack on differences between rates of pay

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Negotiators will be urged to ensure

that benefits — such as private health

schemes, the use of a car, or subsidized

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Mr. John Edmonds, leader of the GMB,

said negotiators should ensure that

benefits are not seen as "pay" and

therefore used to keep wages down.

Employees doing equal-value work

should receive equal pay and benefits

provided for one group of workers should

be provided for all.

Miss Hayward's claim to "equal pay for

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package of fringe benefits, the Law Lords

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They ruled that her employers were not

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benefits: instead they should look at her

basic pay.

They ordered that both this and her

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those of the male craftsmen whom she

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This amounts to a pay rise of some

£5,000 as it is backdated to 1984 when

Miss Hayward, who provides between

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Cammell Laird, began her battle for pay

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Continued on page 2, col 6

Woman cook wins legal victory for equal pay

By John Spicer and Frances Gibb

A shipyard canteen cook from Merseyside won a landmark legal victory for the right of women to equal pay in the House of Lords yesterday which union leaders predicted could trigger an upsurge in similar claims from women in low-paid jobs.

In a ruling hailed as a resounding victory by the Equal Opportunities Commission and the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMB), five Law Lords headed by the Lord Chancellor unanimously ruled that Julie Hayward, aged 28, was entitled to the same basic rate of pay as a painter, a joiner and a thermal insulation engineer at the Cammell Laird shipyard, Birkenhead.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

24 judges claimed to be Freemasons

Channel 4 will tonight name 24 judges which it claims are Freemasons. An edition of *Dispatches* also says that the St James' Lodge, central London, includes four Scotland Yard commanders and 12 chief superintendents.

The Freemasonry movement, which is trying to shake off its image as an ill-intentioned secret society, held a press conference in London yesterday but failed to answer a number of direct questions.

Commander Michael Higham, grand secretary of the United Grand Lodge, said he hoped a promotional video which was shown would "go a long way to show that we are anything but the secret society we are sometimes accused of being". The video is the latest step in a programme instituted in 1984 by the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of English Freemasonry, to improve the movement's image.

Asked how many members of the Metropolitan Police were Freemasons, Commander Higham dismissed the question as "irrelevant" and said he had no way of knowing. Asked how many members the movement had throughout England and Wales, he said it would be "very difficult" to calculate.

Knife threat to envoy

Mr Bryce Harland, aged 56, the New Zealand High Commissioner, and his wife, Anne Blackburn, were held at knife-point in their bedroom after three burglars entered their home in Chelsea Square, south-west London early yesterday. The raiders woke the couple and stole jewellery and other items. No estimate has been given of the value of the stolen property. Scotland Yard said: "It appears that it was an opportunist crime and the suspects were not aware of the status of their victims". Mr Harland has been the New Zealand representative in Britain since 1985. Before that he had served as the New Zealand representative at the United Nations.

MPs back radio plan

Proposals for radio broadcasting, including three new national channels and a "light touch" regulatory body to take the place of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, were supported last night by the Commons' home affairs select committee. Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, said graduated sanctions, ranging from informal warnings to licence withdrawal, could be used against stations which failed to live up to their promises of performance. He said the three new national radio channels would be expected to offer a "varied programme menu".

New EEC court plan

The EEC is preparing to create a Community Court to help to reduce the dramatic increase in cases which is widely acknowledged to be crippling the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. The proposed Court of First Instance, which would have jurisdiction over actions brought by EEC officials, competition cases and claims for damages, is expected to reduce the time taken by the EEC's judicial machinery to reach decisions. The decisions of the court would be subject to appeal in the European Court of Justice.

Hall faces demolition

A Victorian village hall in Stanmore, north-west London, faces demolition by developers, after unsuccessful attempts by the Victorian Society to have it listed. The Bernays Institute, built as a memorial to the drowned son of a village rector, has no structural problems and is "certainly listable", the society said. It had applied twice for listing but unless it produced new evidence "there is not much more we can do". In spite of a heated campaign by the local action group, the Department of the Environment has refused to list the hall, saying it is of insufficient architectural interest.

Broadcaster worse

Russell Harty, the broadcaster, was placed on a life support machine at St James' University Hospital, Leeds, yesterday after a night-time deterioration in his condition, already critical. His condition had become stable again by mid-morning but last night a hospital bulletin said he remained unconscious and critically ill.

Chastened dawn vigil for TV-am's lone picket

By Robin Young

When the television presenter Anne Diamond swept on to the forecourt of TV-am's studios in Camden Town in north London at 4 am yesterday there was one man in a blue anorak standing beside a smouldering dustbin to remind her that the company she works for dismissed 229 technicians and three trainees last February, after locking them out in November.

As she passed Miss Diamond, smiled thinly in the back seat of the company car which ferries her to her sunrise trust with nearly 16 million viewers.

The one-man picket said it was unusual to be alone, but picket duty was more difficult to fill now that many of TV-am's most qualified staff had found jobs elsewhere. Fifty directors, cameramen, production assistants, sound and video

engineers have already left the TV-am branch of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, as many as another 30 are thought to have jobs on offer.

The remainder are in chastened mood. They meet on the picket line, or in a room at ACTT headquarters in Wardour Street where a team of five draw up rotas, answer telephone calls, and try to maintain morale. One topic of discussion is their varying experiences in trying to get unemployment or supplementary benefit. None has received any strike pay, some are deeply in debt.

At six, the lone picket was joined by two colleagues. None of the three was willing to give a name or say what job he had performed inside. "We have been stitched up by the press," they complained. "They only print lies about us." The men

are particularly bitter about estimates put on their high overtime earnings, and insist that they had accepted all new technology eagerly. They recall meetings at which the company begged their support and when the managing director, Mr Adrian Moore, promised that when good times came they would be the first to share in the profits.

The man in the blue anorak said: "I could leave this industry now with no loss of earnings". One of his companions said: "We made the mistake of thinking the management of TV-am were rational beings".

Care carrying telephonists, secretaries and other staff came and went. One or two of the passengers waved. "Of course they wave. We used to work with them. They are friends," the man in the blue anorak said.

The only celebrity guest for

yesterday's show was the pop star Leo Sayer.

It is more than a month now since TV-am officially informed the Independent Broadcasting Authority that the industrial dispute was over, but the station is still advertising for the many of the 70 new workers it says it needs to replace the 232 who were dismissed. Mr David Keighley, the station's director of public affairs, says the station is recruiting "at our own pace".

The IBA says it is no longer prepared to tolerate a programme below normal standards, as it did earlier in the dispute when the station managers manned cameras and consoles, and TV-am's audience subsisted on a diet of *Batman* films and *Doklari* repeats.

Yesterday's *Good Morning Britain* had no live news reports from Britain, and was punctuated with mis-spelt captions, missed

camera cues, wrong pictures and moments of panicky confusion. At one point Anne Diamond could be seen speaking 10 seconds before she could be heard. A slow-running tape of a male voice obliterated much of a report from Nevada. A telephone poll on paying ransom for hostages, was introduced with the question on the screen: "Are you in favour of ransom breath testing?"

Many of the dismissed technicians still believe TV-am will be forced to negotiate a settlement with ACTT in the end. Others plan their hopes to mid-May when the company can selectively re-employ those it wants.

"It is like a morgue here now," the man in the blue anorak said. However, it seems unlikely that, with audience and advertising revenues still growing and costs considerably decreased, that it is TV-am that is about to be buried.

Rebel peers defiant in face of Ridley's poll tax peace move

By Sheila Gann and David Walker

A group of senior Conservative peers are set to defy the Government next week by tabling amendments to band the proposed poll tax to take account of people's ability to pay.

The peers made a decision yesterday to try to ease the burden of the poll tax on the poor in spite of Mr Nicholas Ridley's attempt to quell their fears at a private meeting with about 100 backbench Conservative peers yesterday.

Approval for the amendments in the House of Lords will both anger and embarrass ministers who will be forced to appeal again to MPs to reverse the defeats or grant further concessions.

The amendments are due to be tabled on Tuesday after the Bill is given an unopposed second reading in the upper House.

They will be in the names of Lord Chelwood, Lord Ellenborough and Lady Faithfull - all respected senior Conservative peers. Other peers, such as Lord Plummer and Lord Pym, may decide to add their names before Tuesday.

None was prepared to talk publicly about their plans and insist they will be probing amendments to gauge the strength of support in the Lords.

However it was disclosed to *The Times* that the purpose of the amendments will be to relate the community charge more closely to ability to pay while improving on Mr Michael Mates's amendment which

the Government rejected in the Commons by a majority of 25.

They can expect the support of Labour, Social and Liberal Democratic peers. Social Democrats and a number of Independent peers. The crucial factor will be the number of fellow Conservatives who are prepared to follow them.

All the rebels are confident they have the constitutional right to table and approve such amendments.

Sir George Young, Conservative MP for Ealing, Acton who organized the poll tax revolt in the Commons, predicted: "I think the Government will lose. I think the Lords will approve the amendment and give the Commons another chance to think about it."

The amendments are likely to come up on the first day of the committee stage, probably May 24. However the crucial vote may not come until the report stage in mid-June when peers have had further time to consider all the arguments.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is expected to hold her annual party for her peers on May 18 - several months earlier than normal - to try to deter potential rebels before the amendments are debated.

Meanwhile, the successful introduction of the poll tax is being jeopardized by the Government's refusal to acknowledge the start-up costs of computing, billing and tax collection systems, according to a survey of councils.

The survey published in the current edition of *Public Finance and Accountancy*, the journal of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, discloses that councils put total set-up costs at £242 million, compared with a government estimate of between £70 million and £90 million.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister of State for responsible for Local Government, has announced that £25 million is to be allocated to councils in England and Wales during 1988-89 to meet the cost of computers and new offices needed to operate the poll tax in April 1990.

However, Mr Peter Blair, finance officer of the Association of District Councils, commenting on the survey said: "The announcement may well prove to be too little, too late."

The survey team approached 134 councils to see what finance they needed to get poll tax systems up and running by the 1990 deadline.

Setting up the register will, the survey suggests, cost £75 million alone; preparing a system that can issue bills to all adults in a given area will cost a further £167 million. It will cost about £70 million a year to operate the register and more than £150 million in administration.

Annual running costs are estimated by councils at nearly £300 million compared with a government estimate of under £200 million.



Woman cook has equal pay victory

Continued from page 1

Miss Hayward will have to go back to the industrial tribunal for formal approval to bring her money in line with the craftsmen at Cammell Laird.

Miss Hayward's fight is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom under the new "equal value" provisions which the Government was forced in 1984 to bring into the Equal Pay Act, 1970, by the EEC to remedy its defects.

Before then, the Act only

enabled women to bring equal pay claims with men doing broadly similar work. That excluded most women who were in all-women low-paid sectors of employment.

Mr Alan Lakin, chief legal adviser to the Equal Opportunities Commission, said: "It is a great psychological boost for women."

Last night Cammell Laird said it would not be making any comment on the ruling until it had studied a transcript of the judgement.

Appeal to newspaper owners on press body

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Britain's newspaper proprietors are being asked to intervene and help to save the Press Council, the self-regulatory body which adjudicates on journalistic misdemeanours.

The demand, made by the British executive of the International Press Institute, comes against a background of growing all-party political pressure for statutory regulation of the press after much publicized excesses by some tabloid newspapers.

Sir Zelman Cowen, QC, the present council chairman, is due to retire at the end of October and a committee of council members is searching for a successor. Although Lord McGregor of Durra, chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press in the 1970s, is a leading candidate for the post and has considerable backing among newspaper industry chiefs, there appears to be a reluctance to name a new chairman quickly.

Lord McGregor's radical plans for restoring the shattered image of the Press Council, which include making the chairmanship a full-time job, drawing up a code of journalistic ethics, and establishing an all-party parliamentary select committee, appear to have scared some council members who believe the body suffers only from an image problem.

The uncertainty has resulted in Mr Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian* and chairman of the British section of the IPI, writing to Sir Zelman and all newspaper proprietors.

Mr Preston said: "We believe that the interest and concern of the publishers and proprietors is now very necessary if the council is to be saved, and we would much appreciate any initiative you can take to make sure that the council emerges stronger."

"We believe that a failure swiftly to appoint a new chairman in whom the public can feel confidence may do great damage to the Press Council."

After inquiries by *The Times*, the membership of the Press Council committee chosen to find a new chairman is understood to include:

Sir Zelman (chairman), Mr David Ennis, a joint vice-chairman of the council and former managing director of the Croydon Advertiser Group, Mr Tom Watson, also a joint vice-chairman and a board member of United Newspapers, Mr Cyril Bealbridge, a journalist on *The Times* and former president of the Institute of Journalists, Mr Geoff Collard, editorial director of the *Croydon Advertiser*, Mr Freddie Johnston, chairman of the Johnston newspaper group in Scotland, Mr Louis Kirby, a director of Associated Newspapers and former editor of the *London Evening News*, and Mrs Pamela Omerod, a former teacher.

Mr Richard Hooper, managing director of Super Channel, is leaving the company "by mutual agreement" after the recent financial restructuring of the troubled satellite channel which saw Virgin become the main backer.

Press Council ratings, page 4

Arbiter Elegantiarum

Ermenegildo Zegna is, with very little doubt, the arbiter elegantiarum of menswear today.

Born of the vision and commitment of its founder, the very name of Ermenegildo Zegna expresses with a subtlety and style the absolute essence of the International man.

What gives this particular range of menswear the edge over so many others is not just the natural flair with which the fabric colour and quality is selected for the garment in question; not just the fact that the craftsmanship of cut and finish is its own visible endorsement; but that from the outset, the subject and centre-piece of the whole operation - the man that will finally wear the creation - is envisaged in a whole environment, and the range is therefore created with a totality of image that it is difficult to find elsewhere.

It is an experience which has to be lived, to be really understood. It is said that to wear a Zegna suit for the very first time is a virtual rebirth of personality. The confidence it

inspires, the change in mien; the statement of interiority is real, meaningful, and decidedly uplifting.

My renaissance occurred in the Menswear department of Fortnum and Mason, which is not as unlikely a venue as may first be imagined. Far apart from having one of the largest selections of the Ermenegildo Zegna range of suits, sports jackets, trousers, shirts, ties, and knitwear in London, the Fortnum approach - based as it is on nearly three hundred years of retailing experience - does not attack one with a glitzy and streamlined selling machine, but attends gracefully and with due deference to a man's need to pause and deliberate without interference.



Fortnum presents its range of merchandise with no undue emphasis and with a quiet aplomb, which is totally in keeping with the British approach and preference for gentle understatement and rock solid reliability.

Shown above is just one example of the classically sporting look that Zegna has created this Spring.

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The service offered by that totally unique partnership of Fortnum and Mason and Ermenegildo Zegna does not, as you might imagine, stop at this point. Should your requirement be made to measure, the Zegna concept 'Su Misura' is a unique computer-based programme that records those individual measurements, and automatically adjusts to any style you may select. It follows up by briefing the Craftsmen at the Ermenegildo Zegna factory accordingly.

Such a facility is very worthy of investigation, if for no other reason than one can have the

Adviser to lead Sunday trading lobby

Thatcher aide quits No 10

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

One of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's most trusted aides is leaving Conservative Central Office after more than 20 years to head a new campaign pressing for a relaxation of the laws on Sunday trading.

Mr Roger Boaden, aged 48, who masterminded the Prime Minister's tours at each of her hat-trick of general election victories, departs from Smith Square at the end of next week.

He will front a renewed effort led by Sir Basil Feldman, a Tory party vice-president and prominent businessman, which is backed by retail and tourist outlets, to permit shops to open on Sundays.

A government Bill aimed at relaxing the law was defeated just over two years ago after a backbench rebellion by 72 Conservative MPs.

The new campaign, as yet unnamed, will absorb two existing pressure groups, Sort Out Sunday and Open Shop, and is supported by such household names as Woolworth Holdings, Burtons and W H Smith. It has been given a boost by the comment by Mr Timothy Renton, a Minister of State at the Home Office,

who said in February that "the Government is determined to find a way through this thicker".

A Green Paper setting out ministerial thinking and the options for change is expected in the summer.

Last night Mr Boaden, who will bring to his new post extensive political and Whitehall contacts, was seemingly closing the final chapter in his work for the Conservatives, which stretches back almost 30 years.

For the past four years, he has headed the local government section at Central Office.

His departure from Central Office comes as Mr Peter Brooke, the Tory chairman, begins work on his blueprint for revitalizing the party machine after the trauma of the 1987 general election campaign.

It is understood that Mr Brooke has already decided to appoint a director of communications to match Labour's increasingly professional approach.

However, it is believed that the Conservative chairman does not favour the appointment of a chief executive at Smith Square - a step that has

been followed in the reorganization of the Scottish party and one that many ministers and Conservative MPs believe is necessary to sharpen up the party's internal management. The lack of a clear chain of command is widely seen as lying at the root of much of the behind-the-scenes infighting that took the gloss off the landslide Tory victory last summer.

Mr Boaden's departure will be regretted by Mrs Thatcher.

Yesterday, his friends were saying that his departure from Central Office, which follows that of Mr Michael Dobbs, former chief of staff to Mr Norman Tebbit, the previous chairman, and Mr Peter Davies, the head of the home affairs section, in no sense reflected any personal rivalry.

However, it is known that Smith Square is in the grip of a power struggle between the old guard and the modernists over the relationship between the head office professionals and the voluntary wing.

Mr Boaden is associated with those pressing for a more active and incisive campaigning role for the centre.

Quest to stroke a red-kneed tarantula

By Ronald Faux

The red-kneed tarantulas of Mexico, the bumble bees of Namche Bazar, Nepal, and the sacred ibis of Alabama are three species which can expect to be spied upon by British scientists with the blessing of the Royal Geographical Society this year.

The society announced financial sponsorship for 50 expeditions and general approval for another 14 yesterday after more than 100 groups applied for recognition.

Miss Rosemary Smith, aged 22, a veterinary student at Queens' College, Cambridge, leaves with four other students in July for the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico, home of the threatened red-kneed tarantulas.

About 13,000 of the insects have been imported into Europe and North America

where they sell as pets for \$65 each. "They are extremely beautiful, about eight inches across, soft to stroke and I like looking at the way they move. It's a bit creepy but very lovely," Miss Smith said.

The spiders make excellent pets. They keep themselves clean, need feeding only once a month and are happy to be confined in a fish tank.

The red-kneed variety is much less common and commands a higher price than its red-rumped relative. However, the tarantula generally has an undeserved reputation.

Miss Smith said: "They do have a poisonous sting that's about as unpleasant and dangerous as the sting of a bee. They love it in sandy, semi-desert areas where they dig burrows that they live with silk."

The group, which includes another vet and a zoologist, will explore ways in

which wild populations of the threatened spiders can be exploited to allow a maximum sustainable yield.

This year's crop of expeditions has produced a high number of women leaders. Miss Naomi Seville, of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, will make a collection of bumble bees hunt the rare dragonfly, *Epiplatys leleupii*, in East Nepal.

Miss Sally Halselden will lead an Oxford University expedition to Papua New Guinea to study a small, threatened mammal and use radio-tracking to plot forest wallabies on the islands of Woodlark and Goodenough.

Others include glacier explorations in Iceland and Greenland, a report of the voyage of Marco Polo from China to Venice, a climb into a 2,000 ft unexplored canyon on the Robinson Crusoe and Ale-

xander Selkirk Islands, Chile, and a study of albatross breathlessness in Peru.

One project, Operation Hercules, has already taken place. However, the search for the world's biggest earthworm species on St Helena Island in the South Atlantic by two scientists from the Invertebrate section at London Zoo was sadly frustrated.

The area where the insects were reported had been turned into a rabbit pit infested with mice and scorpions. All the scientists found of the *Lolodora herculeana* were the remains of a pair of pliers.

Under The Times auspices the Royal Geographical Society is sponsoring 50 expeditions in 1988. The 1987 list of expeditions was published in *The Times* on May 1, 1987. The 1988 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1988. The 1989 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1989. The 1990 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1990. The 1991 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1991. The 1992 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1992. The 1993 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1993. The 1994 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1994. The 1995 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1995. The 1996 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1996. The 1997 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1997. The 1998 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1998. The 1999 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 1999. The 2000 list of expeditions will be published in *The Times* on May 1, 2000.

Amnesty aimed at knife-owners nets big gun haul

By Craig Seton and Stewart Tandler

A police amnesty aimed specifically at retrieving knives and other bladed weapons in the West Midlands has brought in a haul of 112 firearms, including one sawn-off and two pump action shotguns, it was announced yesterday.

As the announcement was made Scotland Yard revealed a "worrying" 34 per cent increase in the level of reported violent crimes in London in the first quarter of this year.

The haul of firearms, together with 6,000 rounds of ammunition, were among 1,232 weapons handed in at more than 50 police stations during the month-long amnesty, which was backed by a guarantee that no questions would be asked and no prosecution brought.

Senior officers said the number of weapons handed in represented "only the tip of the iceberg". The total haul included four stun guns, 43 serrated "Rambo" knives, 156 flick knives, 319 other knives, 42 machetes and a frightening array of home-made weapons which senior officers said could only have been intended to inflict death or serious injury.

Those included a short stick with nails through one end and a blade at the other. The fingers on a pair of gardening gloves had been fitted with razor-sharp scalpel blades and an iron chain had been turned into a flail.

Mr Paul Leopold, deputy chief constable of the West Midlands, said: "These weapons can no longer be used to inflict death or injury on innocent members of the public. Nobody could have any legitimate reason for making

weapons like this which are capable of inflicting horrific injuries."

He said he was surprised that so many firearms, many in working order, had been handed in. They included wartime revolvers and pistols, several "handbags" Derringer pistols and army rifles from the last century.

Under the terms of the amnesty none of the firearms will be subjected to ballistic tests to check if they had been used in crime.

Many of the weapons were souvenirs, but others were thought to have been handed in by girls who persuaded their boyfriends to give them up. All but one of the weapons will be destroyed in a furnace.

The one which is to be handed over to a museum is a 1853 Enfield military rifle kept by the grand-daughter of a man who used it more than 115 years ago to prevent a robbery at the house of an MP.

The Home Office has announced that it intends to hold a national amnesty for firearms and is considering implementing a national campaign for other weapons.

The Scotland Yard statistics released yesterday showed that in the first quarter of this year crime increased overall by 3 per cent but the figures show drops in burglaries and auto theft and a 17 per cent rise in crimes cleared up.

Comparing the first three months of this year with the same period last year the figures reveal that cases of attacks involving violence against the person have risen from 4,623 to 6,174. Police say the increase may be because the public has been persuaded by a recent police campaign to report domestic disputes.

The London police are not

alone in reporting a trend of increases in violence this year. Northamptonshire police recorded a 19 per cent increase for January and February, the West Midlands force recorded a 14 per cent rise in burglaries for the quarter while West Yorkshire had a 10 per cent increase in assaults in the same three months.

Two years ago when the London police began a campaign to get maps reported there was a sudden upsurge of cases. The first quarter of this year again saw a rise of 30 per cent in reports.

Burglaries on homes fell by one per cent while theft or taking away of vehicles dropped by 12 per cent. The two figures may be the result of greater publicity for crime prevention and the spread of the neighbourhood watch schemes.

Street robberies have also fallen, by 15 per cent, which police think could also be the consequence of greater publicity urging crime prevention.

On the other hand the figures show clearance rates rising at 17 per cent while arrests rose by 14 per cent. Drug trafficking arrests have risen by 58 per cent.

Bedfordshire police are to launch a reward scheme. People telephoning them with anonymous information will collect bounty money of up to £200 if their information leads to the arrest and charging of a criminal.

The scheme will start later this year in Dunstable. It will be the second such scheme in Britain: one was successfully launched in Great Yarmouth four years ago. The reward money will come from local businessmen and the pay off will not involve police officers.

Rothschild Turner set for £6m



Ms Margie Christian, of Christie's, with Turner's "Cicero at his Villa" (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance).

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A major painting by Turner may well establish a record for the artist when it comes under the hammer in July, according to Christie's. It has been sent for sale by Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, the British merchant banker, with a modest estimate of £5 million - £1 million less than the previous record for the artist in 1984.

A late work, dated 1839 and entitled "Cicero at his Villa", the painting is supremely romantic in mood, showing the tiny form of the ancient statesman gesticulating as he shows his home, and the hazy rolling landscape which surrounds it, to his companion.

Turner had seen a painting of the same subject by Richard Wilson in 1779. That, and the material accumulated in his travel sketchbook of 1819, particularly a view of the Villa Frascati, helped to form the basis of the composition.

"Another of Turner's examples of revelling with colour, and picturing the dreams of his fantasy", was how a critic described it when he first saw it at the Royal Academy in 1939.

By 1845, "Cicero" was in the collection of Joseph Gillot, a steel manufacturer. After his death it was sold, along with the rest of Gillot's collection, at Christie's in 1872 for £1,470 guineas. Then the painting entered a period of limbo, passing through a number of hands until Mr Evelyn de Rothschild's father, Anthony, acquired it from Knoedler, the London dealers, in 1928.

Mr Evelyn de Rothschild is a cousin of Mr Jacob Rothschild, chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery, and for many years was embroiled in a much-publicized family feud with him. Aged 57, he is the chairman of N.M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd of London, as well as being the owner of Henry Sotherton, the London book and print dealers, and chairman of *The Economist*.

Mr Simon Dickinson, of Christie's, said yesterday: "The painting is in fantastic condition, with all the original glazes intact. Turner is a magic name. There are an awful lot of people around the world, both public and private, who badly want a great late work by him."

As most late paintings by the artist are secure within the Turner bequest, very few are in private hands. The work has not been included in any of the recent Turner exhibitions, so Christie's has a job ahead marketing it. A whistle-stop tour is planned for America, and the auction house is considering taking the painting to Japan.

It is unlikely that there would be much opposition to an export licence, for as Mr Timothy Clifford, director of the National Gallery of Scotland, says: "The country is awash with Turners". London has the Clow Gallery dedicated to his work, and Edinburgh has two very beautiful Turner oils on loan which the National Gallery of Scotland will one

US firm wins the battle of Lego

A lengthy legal battle over children's toy bricks was won yesterday by Tyco, the American toy manufacturers.

Interlego, the Swiss owners of Lego, lost its copyright case appeal before the Privy Council in London.

The American toy company, founded 50 years ago, decided in 1983 to manufacture toy bricks and compete with Lego. They were made in the Far East and were much cheaper than Lego's.

Interlego instituted a copyright action in Hong Kong and won. But Tyco won its appeal before the Hong Kong Court of Appeal, and yesterday the law lords in London unanimously dismissed Interlego's appeal.

Interlego must now pay the legal costs of all three hearings, estimated at more than £100,000.

The law lords decided in favour of Interlego on two small items "of relatively trifling significance" but Tyco won the main argument.

Lord Keith of Kinkel said that after the New York Toy Fair in 1984 Tyco informed Lego representatives what they intended to do - "to manufacture and sell a model-making system openly advertised as looking like Lego, working like Lego, and capable of combination with Lego, but sold at a competitive price".

After reviewing copyright law and other alleged cases of infringement, Lord Keith said: "Lego's claim for infringement of copyright in their post-1972 drawings fails as regards such of those drawings as were copied either from drawings made prior to 1973 or from other drawings in respect of which no infringement has been claimed."

"It is not sufficient to confer originality upon them that labour and skill was employed in the process of copying them or in the addition to them of fresh written manufacturing instructions."

"The claim in the action is for infringement of artistic copyright only, not a claim for patent infringement or for the poaching of confidential design information."

Lego, which says its product is in three quarters of all British homes with children, said afterwards that it was very disappointed at the decision and would continue its legal battle.

Lego may now seek a declaration that the ruling is not binding in this country.

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Call to publish hospital death figures

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities should publish death rates for hospitals so that people know if they are getting good quality care, health chiefs in Wales said yesterday.

Mr John Taylor, district general manager of East Dyfed Health Authority, proposed a motion which called on the Government to review all deaths occurring in acute hospitals or within 30 days of discharge.

He said this would help to improve the quality of the service and increase the health service's accountability.

Mr Taylor told the annual meeting of the Association of Welsh Authorities in

Portcawl, Mid Glamorgan: "If I were a patient I would like to know what were the prospects of dying after an operation and how much variation there was between my local hospital and the national figure."

Mr Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities, said the motion, which was passed by an overwhelming majority, would also go to the national conference next month.

He said: "If the Government goes ahead with introducing an internal market, patients must have this type of

information to choose between hospitals. A hospital with the lowest waiting lists may also have the highest mortality rates, as GPs would not refer to consultants with a bad reputation."

Mr Hunt admitted there were dangers in publishing a league table of mortality rates. He said: "Some people would be too frightened to go to the doctor at all if they knew the death rates for some operations. We do not want to undermine people's confidence in the health service, but East Dyfed have raised an issue which must be considered on the political agenda."

Concern over child X-rays

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Too many children are getting too much radiation from medical X-rays, according to two specialists in paediatrics and radiology.

They propose that alternatives to X-rays, such as ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging, should be used whenever possible when examining children.

Furthermore, they say there is too much variation between hospitals in the use of measures to protect the ovaries

and testes when X-rays are taken of children.

Writing in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Christine Hall, consultant paediatric radiologist, and Dr Richard Dawood, senior registrar, at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, propose to its editor that all papers submitted for publication which include radiographs of children without gonad protection should be rejected.

"Their life expectancy is long, allowing more time for radiation-induced cancers to appear. Their tissues show increased radiosensitivity", the specialists say.

"Their entire reproductive life lies ahead of them, and they cannot give informed consent."

Gonadal shielding, using small pads lined with lead, is described as the most widely known protective measure in paediatric radiography.

Doctor is jailed over passport

A doctor was jailed yesterday for signing an application form for a passport which was later used by a man trying to flee the country two days before he was due to stand trial on charges arising from the Tottenham riots in 1985.

Dilip Kundra, aged 44, a general practitioner who has a surgery in St Johns Road, Tottenham, north London, was convicted by a jury on two charges of making an untrue statement for the purpose of obtaining a passport.

Mr Simon Davis, for the prosecution, told Wood Green Crown Court in north London that Kundra, of Guildford Road, Walthamstow, north-east London, signed the application forms on behalf of two patients although he knew the names were false.

The doctor said he either made a mistake or was "conned" but did not deliberately do anything dishonest. Judge John Hamilton, who also fined Kundra £5,000, said he would have taken a more serious view if there had been any evidence that the doctor knew for what purpose the passports were to be used.

Kundra was granted bail pending an appeal.

Learn English, says judge

By Craig Seton

A judge told a Pakistani immigrant yesterday that he should learn English as a condition of his probation for falsely claiming social security benefit.

Mr Mohammed Sarwar, aged 46 and unemployed, has lived in Britain for 23 years. Judge Malcolm Potter, at Birmingham Crown Court, told Mr Sarwar it was "plain stupid" that he still could not understand English.

The judge said: "This man has been living here since 1965 and here we are in 1988 and he still needs an interpreter. He says he is British and has been in this country for nearly a quarter of a century. Why do we have to have an interpreter in Punjab to explain the social security system to him?"

"I think a person who lives here has a duty to understand the language so that he can give truthful information."

Mr Sarwar, of Hockley Heath, Birmingham, was sentenced to two years' probation after he admitted five charges of making false claims totalling £1,760 for housing benefit.

The judge asked Mr Sarwar if he spoke English. After the society officer interpreted, Mr Sarwar replied: "A little".

The court heard Mr Sarwar

had been imprisoned for three months for conspiracy to defraud and received a suspended sentence after being convicted of living off immoral earnings.

Mr Sarwar yesterday asked for 17 other offences to be considered. The judge said: "I intend to make it a particular condition of the order that you make reasonable efforts to learn the English language and to attend any classes which the probation officer directs. You cannot properly live in a society offering benefits unless you understand this language."

A Civil Servant who was ordered to sit behind filing cabinets to hide him from other workers won a case of racial discrimination yesterday. An industrial tribunal in Liverpool ruled that Mr Hirsch Sharma, aged 39, who was born in Kenya of Indian parents, was "isolated, ignored and made idle" by his seniors at the Department of Employment, Runcorn, Cheshire. Mr Sharma, of Skelmersdale, Lancashire, claimed other staff told him he would not get management support because of his colour. Compensation will be determined at a hearing on July 4.

condition of the order that you make reasonable efforts to learn the English language and to attend any classes which the probation officer directs. You cannot properly live in a society offering benefits unless you understand this language."

The judge's comments were criticized by Mr Mohammed Idriah, a community worker with the Asian Resource Centre. He said: "Where does it say in the statute books that somebody has to speak English to be a British citizen?"

Mr Idriah added: "I am glad the judge is not running this country. He is obviously racist."

"Everybody knows there are people who cannot speak English and need interpreters to understand the more complicated aspects of British life, such as the law courts."

Mr Leslie Sivarindwa, Birmingham's community relations officer, said: "This (the judge's comments) is a very stereotyped perception of an ethnic minority member of British society."

Last night, speaking in broken English, Mr Sarwar said: "I do not read or write any English at all. I cannot even sign my name in English."

Mr Sarwar, the father of four children, said he had been a foundry worker until seven years ago when he was forced to give up work because of ill-health. He said: "If people speak posh I cannot understand them. The judge spoke posh and I could not understand him."

their retirement homes have not been as peaceful as they expected.

Mr George Craig, aged 65, said: "I think the vicar is a hero for speaking out. Some of the older people get a lot of aggravation. Since the vicar wrote what he did things have quietened down a bit so maybe his action is working."

However two of the youths named in the magazine are furious.

Tony Steward, aged 18, a redundant mill labourer, named as TS, said: "He has been saying things for which he doesn't have any proof. We get moved on just for meeting for a chat at the corner of the High Street. We don't cause any trouble. He has no right to put my initials in the magazine, but there is nothing I can do about it."

Andrew Racey, aged 17, a butcher's assistant, listed as AR, added: "The vicar is out of order. All that the youngsters are doing is larking around, nothing serious. He is out of touch with young people."

Vicar's crusade against village louts

By Michael Horswell

A country vicar has launched an unusual crusade against the "mindless louts" who, he claims, are disturbing the peace of village life.

The Rev Norman Kelly, vicar of the fifteenth century parish church of St Nicholas at Canewdon in Essex, publishes the culprits' initials in the parish magazine. He is also offering a £5 book token to the first parishioner who correctly interprets his blacklist.

Mr Kelly, aged 75 with a reputation for eccentricity, took up arms as a Christian soldier when he found he could no longer tolerate the obscene language, riotous behaviour and insolence of about 15 youths in the village.

He is demanding from the chief constable of Essex a permanent village bobby to keep the peace.

He said: "Parents who grew up in the permissive sixties do not know how to discipline their children."

"The best way to curb crime in these

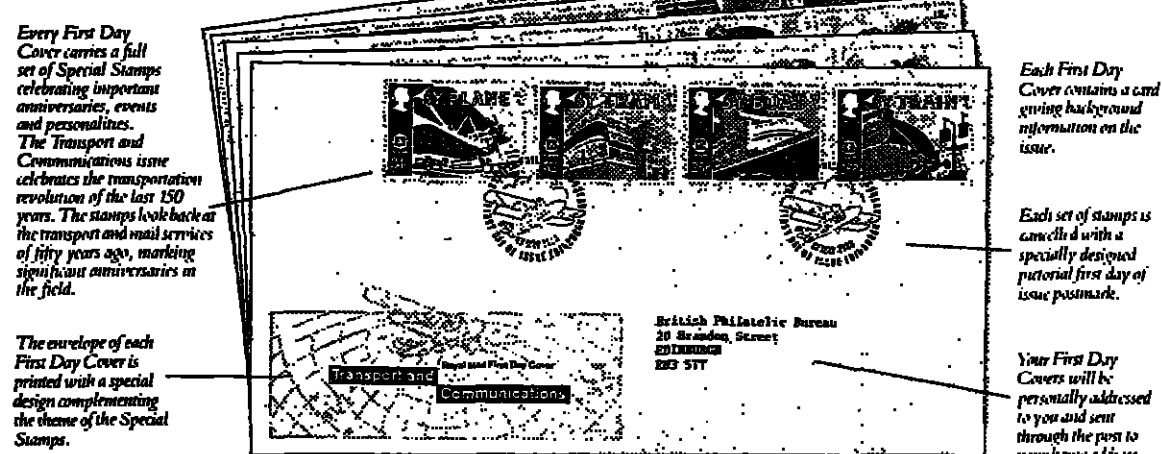
circumstances is by exposure and the loss of face rather than prison and punishment. We have a policeman who patrols three villages and we seem to see him even less now that he has got a patrol car."

"What we need is our own policeman, but, in the meantime, I have decided to tackle the problem by shaming those responsible."

In his parish magazine Mr Kelly wrote: "Not being the village policeman and not having signed the Official Secrets Act, I am free to name the youths who for some time have been provoking the adults of the village to violence by their obscene language and by their insolent defiance towards anyone responsible enough to check them."

Mr Kelly's idiosyncratic approach to crime will be pursued in the next issue in which, he adds darkly, he might "provide the names of people leaving uninsured cars on Church Hill."

The crusade has met with a show of support from villagers, many angry that



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Infant euthanasia justified in some cases, BMA says

By Thomson Prestice, Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association yesterday advised doctors that some forms of euthanasia may be justified but said that active intervention to end a patient's life should remain illegal.

While patients have the right to decline life-prolonging treatment, they do not have the right to require a doctor to collaborate in their death, a report by a BMA working party says.

"The law should not be changed as the deliberate taking of a human life should remain a crime," it concludes.

The association's report is its first overhaul of guidelines on euthanasia for 17 years. It takes into account the opinions and often conflicting views of the medical profession, churches, organizations and pressure groups.

It deals with the moral and ethical dilemmas posed in the treatment of patients such as severely malformed babies, sufferers of Aids, "brain dead" accident victims and the elderly.

In one controversial conclusion dealing with grossly handicapped babies, the report says: "There are circumstances where the doctor may judge correctly that continuing to treat an infant is cruel, and that the doctor should ease the baby's dying rather than prolong it by the insensitive use of medical technology."

Withholding treatment in such cases "does not preclude loving care for the dying infant. This will, of course, involve relieving the infant's distress."

However, any move towards liberalizing the active termination of such an infant "would herald a serious and incalculable change in the present ethos of medicine".

The report says that medical technology has become so advanced that it can intrude into people's lives.

"Many patients express their horror of such interventions and do not want their lives artificially prolonged by these means."

It describes euthanasia as "a good and gentle death" and says that for some patients "death is a mystery which they approach with tranquillity. There are limits to medical science and it is inappropriate for doctors to insist on intruding in these circumstances."

Sir Henry Yellowlees, a former government chief medical officer, and chairman of the BMA working party, said yesterday: "Doctors should not descend on their patients with an active determination to end their lives."

"They must do all they can to relieve illness, pain, suffering and distress. If in so doing that includes a risk to the patient's life, we don't believe that the doctor should be culpable."

The report says that in current medical practice there are two conflicting influences. One is the increasingly complex and powerful array of medical technology which can prolong life. This has produced "widespread apprehension about what sort of dying one is going to have".

The second influence is the claim of autonomy, "a growing awareness of the rights of patients to make decisions about what shall and what shall not be done to them."

The report says: "We believe that human life is of great value and should be cherished. We accept that individuals have the right to decide what doctors will or will not do to them, but

question whether this right is absolute."

Where medical intervention cannot benefit a patient in any appreciable way, such as brain-death has been established, such intervention is unjustified, the report says.

In treating the senile or demented elderly, who are near an undignified and degrading death, life-prolonging medical therapy should be discontinued or avoided if it means further distress and indignity, the report says.

"Doctors should allow death to come and desist from intrusive feeding regimes and other treatments which will protract the dying of the patient."

"What is not acceptable is that doctors should take the further step of dispatching such patients for the convenience and comfort of others."

In treating sufferers of Aids, the recognition at a certain stage that active therapy is no longer kind nor welcome should only arise in a doctor-patient relationship where "creative rather than dismissive" attitudes to terminal illness are paramount, the report says.

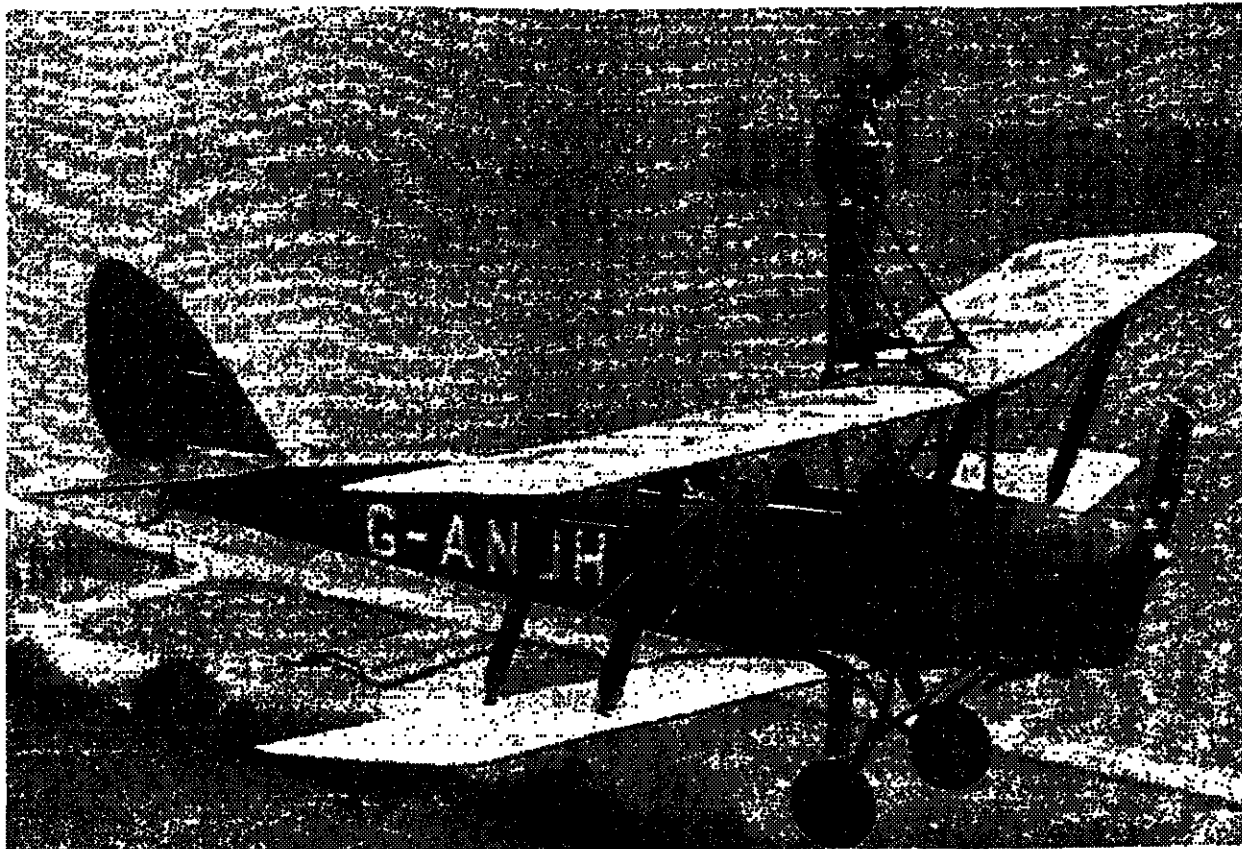
"Patients with Aids know they have a terminal disease during which they will suffer a number of episodes of severe illness. They also know they will become increasingly weak and debilitated."

They require the same caring and consistent attitude to the human suffering involved as other terminally ill patients, the report says.

It concludes: "Any doctor compelled by conscience to intervene to end a person's life will do so prepared to face the closest scrutiny of this action that the law might wish to make."

The Euthanasia Report (British Medical Association; £7.95).

An aerial first raises £14,000



Mrs Hunter-Jones aloft yesterday and (right) with her daughter, Georgina, the pilot (Photographs: Peter Trievnor).

By Robin Young

Mrs Evangelina Hunter-Jones, chairman of the Women's National Cancer Control Campaign, went on a sponsored wing walk aboard a Tiger Moth piloted by her daughter, Georgina, at White Waltham airfield near Maidenhead, Berkshire, yesterday. It is believed to be the first time two women have performed such a feat, and by popular demand they did it twice, circling the airfield at a speed of 80 mph and a height of 1,000 ft.

Mrs Hunter-Jones, aged 60, undertook the flight as part of Europe Against Cancer Week, and raised £14,000 in aid of her campaign to inform women of the need to have breast and cervical cancer examinations. Mrs Hunter-Jones said: "It was a bit windy going up, but I had forgotten what gorgeous countryside we have". Further donations in aid of the campaign can be sent to WNCOC at 1, South Audley Street, London W1.



Traders in fixed stalls are not pedlars

Street traders who sell goods from fixed pitches can no longer consider themselves to be pedlars, although they may move from place to place.

The High Court ruled in a test case yesterday that a true pedlar was one who "trades as he travels, as distinct from one who merely travels to trade".

Traders who move from town to town previously relied on a pedlar's certificate to avoid having to obtain permission from local councils, under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to do business.

Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Hutton allowed appeals by Plymouth City Council against the dismissal by local magistrates in January last year of prosecutions alleging unlawful street trading.

Mr Walter Malloy and Miss Tina Oldrey, who sold Christmas wrapping paper from separate portable stands, had argued successfully that they were covered by pedlar's certificates as they travelled from town to town to trade.

However, the judges said neither could be called pedlars under the Pedlars Act 1871 because they did not actually sell, "while on the move". Leave to appeal was refused.

Drug remand

Josh Astor, a director of a merchant trading company, appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, yesterday, charged in connection with an alleged £150,000 cocaine supply conspiracy. Mr Astor, aged 21, was remanded on bail until June 1 and ordered to live at his home in Kensington, west London.

Fumes deaths

Two friends from Maidstone, Kent, died accidentally by inhaling the exhaust fumes of a car, an inquest jury decided at Maidstone yesterday. The jury was told that Christopher Bottomley, aged 19, and Shane Peace, aged 18, could have been experimenting with the car's exhaust, to which a hose had been fixed.

Princess cited

Princess Meriam, of Johore, was named yesterday as "the other woman" in divorce proceedings brought against Mr Michael Birri, manager of the Mayfair dining club, Harry's Bar, by his wife, Joan. She was awarded an uncontested divorce in the London Divorce Court.

Crime scheme

Football supporters attending the Cup Final next week will be asked to contribute towards the Crimestoppers reward scheme, funded so far by businesses. Rewards will also be offered for information on football hooliganism or other crime at a match.

Marina plan

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday gave final clearance for the construction of a 600-berth marina at Brixham, Devon, after a public inquiry dismissed allegations that such a large influx of yachts would harm local fishing interests.

Priests freed

Two priests and a nurse were given absolute discharges after being convicted of writing on the wall of the Ministry of Defence building during a protest in London against nuclear weapons on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

Rider found

The body of Mrs Lynda Kavanagh, the Dublin businessman's wife who disappeared after going horse riding with a friend on Tuesday, has been found in the river Dargle at Silverbridge.

Lunch scheme

Parents in Nottinghamshire may buy school lunch vouchers from post offices, at a cost of £3.40 for five, a week's supply.

Benefits of pressure at work

Stress can provide 'buzz' for action

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Stress can be good for you. Or, to be more precise, the level of stress that gives you a "buzz" or provides a motivating force, can be good for you.

Such stress normally comes under the heading of "pressure", according to Miss Sally Matheson, of the nursing division of Drake International, the recruitment consultants. Without the application of positive pressure many people will not attempt to reach their full potential, she says.

Miss Matheson, writing in *Drake's Business Review*, says that there is an optimum level of stress at which an individual is likely to be most productive. Pressure, she says, can be defined as the desirable, healthy form of stress.

"For most people, the pressure of accountability for one's work or personal money management has a positive effect", she says. "Battling these pressures produces a feeling of pride and accomplishment."

"How many people work better with a deadline to meet? How many people slacken off

Employers are getting tougher over requests from their workers for time off for such matters as family problems, religious festivals, court appearances — or even to train for the Olympic Games.

A survey for the Institute of Personnel Management has found that employees are increasingly being expected to accommodate such requests and other minor personal issues within their annual holiday entitlements.

Sixty-five British employers were asked how they dealt with requests for special leave. The authors of a report found

if they think no one cares about the quality of their work.

"At certain times it is an advantage to turn up the heat under yourself — or an employee. Pressure can be a 'buzz' or a motivator because there is an end in sight, or because of the sheer pleasure of doing a job well."

"A team of people will work till midnight to get a job done — willingly enjoying the team feeling. People will work

that there was a clear trend to greater formalization of policies on leave — with less discretion being left to managers than was the case until recently.

Managers still have to decide how much leave should be granted, whether it should be paid or unpaid, and whether secondments and sabbaticals should be encouraged, the authors say.

Special Leave (Institute of Personnel Management, Camp Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4UW; £8.50; £6.80 to members of IPM; plus 70p p&p).

consistently well knowing that although standards are high, their efforts will be appreciated."

Pressure can be overcome, Miss Matheson says if there is an end in sight and one is in control. Stress exists when it is continual and control is lost. In such situations, morale is low, pulse rate and blood pressure rise and irritation, fatigue, and insomnia set in.

Miss Matheson gives a warning that one form of

stress can arise from a personality conflict with a supervisor or another worker. Not confronting the problem, just sitting in the middle, creates enormous tension, she says.

She also gives some advice on what to do about stress. Sufferers should find the cause and take time to analyse and deal with it.

They should restructure personal relationships which may be causing stress and list their activities in order of priority and complete them in that order daily.

Work should not be left unfinished and the principles of time management mastered and practised daily.

Requests which are not urgent should be refused and good physical health maintained by watching diet and exercising regularly.

Stress sufferers should find an interesting hobby or sport and relax away from work.

Finally, Miss Matheson says, complaints about stress sometimes come after experiencing pressure. "Before you complain, ask yourself: 'Is this really negative stress — or desirable pressure?'"

Hunt for kidnapped baby

By David Cross

Police urge mothers to help

Police searching for the baby aged five months who was kidnapped from a crowded Cardiff store earlier this week appealed yesterday to mothers to help to find her and her abductor.

"In this case mums are the best detectives", Det Chief Supt John Williams, head of South Wales CID, who is leading the hunt for Natalie Horrell, said. "They have a kind of sixth sense which instinctively says when a woman and baby don't seem right together."

"We want women in particular to look at every mother and baby they see. We want them to think about people living next door or in the flat below and listen for the sounds perhaps of a baby crying and ask if everything seems right. We also want people to think about neighbours they perhaps haven't seen for a couple of days", he added.

The police said that they had received more than 500 telephone calls from as far afield as Blackpool and Tenby

since the child disappeared.

They believe that her abductor, a middle-aged woman, who posed as a store detective to trick Natalie's mother into leaving her alone with her sister for a few minutes, was carrying out a carefully-planned kidnapping.

"Everyone in the country will feel deeply for the Horrell family who are terribly distraught and distressed. We must find Natalie for them and bring her home safely", Mr Williams said. Chemists and shop assistants have been urged to report anyone buying baby food or medicine who raises suspicions.

Among calls being checked by police are two to the *Daily Mirror* newspaper. In calls three hours apart, an anonymous woman claimed: "Natalie is with me. She is well", and then later: "Tell the woman not to worry about the baby".

Supt Williams said: "If this woman is genuine, I would ask her to contact police and make her identity known. It could be very important."

Natalie's mother, Mrs

Maggie Horrell, aged 33, last night appealed to the caller to send some proof that she had her daughter.

"Please prove to me you are not a hoaxer", she said. "Tell me about any distinguishing marks on Natalie that only I know about — or tell me what special features she has. I must know if you have Natalie."

Police are also trying to identify two women who called at St Joseph's Convent in North Road, Cardiff, on Wednesday, asking nuns for hot water to make up a feed for the young baby with them. Officers think it unlikely that baby was Natalie but want to eliminate the women from the inquiry.

They also want to trace the owner of a pair of black earrings and a child's toy racing car found in the ladies toilets at David Street car park, Cardiff, where Natalie's abductor abandoned her pushchair.

Rewards totalling £6,000 have so far been put up by newspapers to help find Natalie.

Research merger proposed

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A radical proposal to merge two of Britain's five research councils was presented yesterday to the House of Lords Select Committee for Science and Technology.

If adopted, the plan would involve a big reorganization of the spending of government money on biological, agricultural and environmental research.

The idea is to unite the Natural Environment Research Council, NERC, and the Agricultural and Food

Research Council, AFRC, which between them allocated £217 million last year for research.

The new organization would be known as the Natural Resources Research Council.

The details of the scheme emerged yesterday in evidence to the committee by Mr Hugh Fish, chairman, and Dr Bernard Tinker, director of Terrestrial and Freshwater Science, on the range of work funded by NERC.

They suggested that much of the work in the environmental sciences impinged increasingly on the agricultural, horticultural, food, fishing and forestry industries.

Previously clear divisions between the two research councils, and the biological work funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council, had become blurred, in their view. There was a great likelihood of duplication of research.

Three-year diploma plea fails

Extra £40m for social work training rejected

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government's rejection of proposals to increase social work training from two to three years was condemned yesterday by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of two inquiries into child abuse deaths.

The £40 million proposals from the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, which were supported by 27 health and social services organisations, sought wide improvements in training including the introduction of a three-year diploma in social work.

However, Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, said this week that the Government would not be able to provide the necessary funds for the proposals, which have taken six years to produce.

Mr Blom-Cooper, chairman of inquiries into the deaths of Jasmine Beckford and Kimberley Carlile, said the Government's response was "profoundly depressing". He said both

inquiries had supported the council recommendations for a minimum three-year course for social workers involved in child abuse cases.

"During two child abuse inquiries we uncovered a mass of bad practices which were directly traceable to inadequacies in training. There is a great need to extend this training in order that bad practices should not be repeated", he said.

Professor Derrick Saul, chairman of the council, said that the Government's response was "a wholly unsatisfactory reply to the overwhelmingly strong case for major change presented by the council which had received unprecedentedly wide support from almost all the major interests involved".

The council said most European countries had minimum three-to-four-year training courses for social workers. A three-year higher national diploma, to be introduced throughout

Europe by the start of 1991, is to be recommended by the European Commissioners at a meeting next month of the Council of Ministers.

In a letter to Professor Saul, Mr Newton said the decision was based on "our assessment of the relative priority of this development for future generations of social workers among other competing calls on public resources".

However, the council said that the "relatively modest" £40 million sum would not have been needed in full until 1994. It had asked for initial development funds of £2.5 million a year, rising to £8.5 million in 1992.

Mr Tony Hall, director of the council, said it would continue to press for the need to extend training. However, it would consider what could be done to improve training within existing resources.

Mr Hall said: "There is no guarantee of any new money at all for

social work training, beyond the £1 million already allocated for 'improvements' this year, and that will make planning future strategies very difficult indeed."

"The £1 million is a drop in the ocean and wholly inadequate. Although Mr Newton said more money might be forthcoming, we need more than a dangled carrot to stop the rot."

Most of the 60,000 social workers have trained for either one or two years, taking courses designed 15 years ago. Increased expectations and demands meant they were expected to deal with family violence, mental disorder, child abuse, the social consequences of Aids and the aftermath of national disasters such as Zeebrugge and Hungerford.

Mr Hall said: "Present courses are simply not long enough to ensure that students acquire the knowledge, skill and practice competence they need to be effective as social workers."

Use of swear word justified

The use of a four-letter swear word by *The Independent* newspaper in its report of the umpiring rumpus in Pakistan last year involving Mike Gatting, the England captain, was justified, according to the Press Council today.

Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, had complained to the council that although all newspapers knew of the exchange they had declined to use it as they were family newspapers.

The Independent used the full exchange, spelling out the offensive word, in its report of the exchange between Shakoor Rana, the umpire, and Gatting. Other newspapers chose to use the initial letter "c", followed by three asterisks or full stops.

Mr MacKenzie asked the council to adjudicate on what he described as the use of gutter language by "a new member of the gutter press". His complaint was that the paper had deliberately used

the full word when "c..." would have been sufficient.

He argued that the newspaper was undoubtedly seen and read by a very large number of children and young people. If *The Sun* were to publish the phrase he had little doubt that rebukes would follow thick and fast.

But the editor of *The Independent*, Mr Andreas Whitam Smith, had said that when the use of swear words was needed for the understanding of a significant story it was the paper's policy to publish them. He believed Gatting's behaviour was inexplicable unless it was known what the umpire had actually said.

In its adjudication the Press Council said obscene language in newspapers was generally offensive. Its gratuitous use was deplored.

There were only very rare circumstances in which the explicit reporting of such lan-

guage might be justifiable to enable readers to understand a significant story properly.

The council added: "This was such a case. The Press Council is satisfied that the editor considered carefully whether to publish the actual words attributed to the umpire and was justified in his decision to do so. They were not published simply to shock but as an important integral part of a significant story."

The complaint was rejected. Complaints that a front-page picture in *The Sun* of a two-headed baby was insensitive and offensive were dismissed by the Press Council today.

Four people claimed the picture was in poor taste, an affront to human dignity, pandering to morbid curiosity and was likely to cause distress to expectant mothers. But in its ruling the council said the use of the picture was within the editor's discretion.

Anglo-Irish effort to cut off vast IRA smuggling profits

By Paul Valley

A co-ordinated security operation is to be mounted by the British and Irish Governments to counter a cross-border smuggling operation which is earning the Provisional IRA millions of pounds a year in protection money.

Government sources in Dublin said yesterday that one of the most significant elements in the Anglo-Irish conference talks held in the city on Wednesday was an agreement to try to stem the smuggling.

Some security sources estimate that the racket nets the IRA as much as £25 million a year.

Government officials were more wary about fixing a figure but said that unofficial estimates of the overall loss to the Exchequer from smuggling was thought to be as high as £100 million.

Evidence of the racket was presented to the Anglo-Irish conference by intelligence sources from both sides of the border during a restricted session on security attended by Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, and

Mr Eamonn Doherty, the Irish police commissioner.

Yesterday Customs officials at several of the dozen manned border posts said that the IRA did not seem to be directly involved in smuggling schemes. Rather it took a cut as "protection money" from syndicates of smugglers, which included farmers and businessmen.

The officials said smuggling had got "out of hand" along the 320-mile border.

Most of the profits found their way into the hands of private racketeers but a large cut was said to have been given to the IRA.

Since 1985, encouraged by currency fluctuations between the North and South and by VAT differentials which could be significant on items like television sets and videos, smuggling had shifted from the earlier emphasis on cattle and agriculture. Electrical goods, alcohol and petrol are now the main sources of illegal profit.

Informed sources in Dublin said the other important area of agreement to have emerged from the latest round of Anglo-Irish talks was over legislation to outlaw job

discrimination against Catholics in the North.

The source said the reform will undermine the Noraid activists in the United States.

"For some time they have been given respectability by campaigning for a 'civil rights' cause which to most Americans seemed self-evidently fair. Now that this has been agreed, it will rob IRA supporters in the United States of a legitimate platform on which they can campaign."

Such a development would remove the pressure on many US state bodies and pension funds to withdraw vital investment in Northern Ireland.

Government officials in Dublin were also said yesterday to welcome the signals given by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that the British Government is prepared to make some concessions to arrive at a viable formula for the extradition of terrorists from the Republic to Britain.

The Irish Government had been concerned that existing arrangements could lead, as in the past, to the extradition of terrorists who were subsequently acquitted in Northern Ireland courts because of inadequate evidence.

President ends term under the hammer



Roger Law (left) and Peter Fluck, the creators of ITV's Spitting Image programme, with the laughing Ronald Reagan, one of their many puppets of the US President, which was sold at auction by Sotheby's last night with more than 150 other items in Design at Auction, an architectural design sale at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, staged to raise funds for Telethon '88 and Inner City Aid. Other collectable items which came under the hammer were more than 50 cartoons by such artists as Gerald Scarfe, Mac, and Tom Johnston. Bidders from the design fraternity and business community competed for the work of top architects and designers such as Richard Rogers, Norman Foster and Terence Conran, alongside more bizarre items like a bronze bust of Bjorn Borg, the former tennis champion, and an Eurythmics collage signed by the singer Annie Lennox (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Monroe's dress is sold for £19,800

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A black dress worn by Marilyn Monroe when she sang *Runaway* in *Some Like It Hot* fetched £19,800 at Sotheby's last night, double its estimate.

Three months ago a blouse she had worn in *Bus Stop* was sold for £7,000. The dress was bought by the Museum of the Moving Image, which is due to open in London in September.

At the same sale a shirt worn by John Wayne, complete with fake bullet holes, made £2,420, but a striped bathing top worn by Buster Keaton in a 1920s film fetched only £528. The sale totalled £68,409.

A letter from the Spanish artist Goya decrying the work of picture restorers fetched top price at Sotheby's manuscript sale yesterday, selling for more than double its estimate, at £23,100.

"Time is not so destructive as the restorers and every day shows more clearly where they put their hand," he wrote to his employer, Don Pedro Cevallos.

Described as "of the utmost rarity" in the catalogue, the one-page letter was bought anonymously.

At the same sale, a collection of 140 state letters from Philip IV of Spain sold for £12,100.

Medical publications sold at a premium. The *Chirurgia Parva* by Guy de Chauliac, a standard book on surgery from the fourteenth to seventeenth century, went to a private buyer for £12,550 and the second edition of *De Morbis Cordis*, William Harvey's classic work, fetched £10,450.

Despite these successes, there was a high proportion of disappointed bidders. A poignant collection of previously unknown letters and postcards from Grand Duchess Anastasia and her sisters, while imprisoned by Russian revolutionaries, failed to sell at £6,500, while 2,000 carte-de-visite photographs assembled by the Empress Elisabeth of Austria were bought in at £10,000.

The total for the first of this two-day sale was £269,100.

Food hazards abroad but tide may turn for 'shabby' home resorts

Britain's seaside fighting its way back

By Robin Young

The tide may have turned at the British seaside. *Holiday Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association, says today that after a decade of decline the British resort is slowly fighting its way back to some of the popularity and profitability it enjoyed before the package holiday industry offered guaranteed sun at affordable prices.

Some resorts, the magazine admits after a tour of inspection, have not changed much since the 1960s. The donkeys and Punch and Judy remain but little else that is bright and welcoming.

Other resorts are seeking money to improve their facilities, while a few are investing heavily and cashing in on the trends toward short breaks,

indoor theme parks, heritage holidays and the conference trade.

Blackpool, with a revenue from tourism of £250 million a year, has not changed its formula for success: wall-to-wall entertainment with honest vulgarity. In the last decade millions have been invested in flashy discos, upgrading hotels, and providing a smart shopping centre and an indoor beach.

In Brighton, the magazine says, the old seaside resort has gone to seed. Yet a lot of money is being spent on improving and building hotels with more clubs, concert venues and restaurants. A holiday village and leisure complex is being built next to the marina, and a water-theme park is due to open in 1990.

Skippers still offer cheap holidays to the working families of the East

Midlands, but has suffered more than most from unemployment and the exodus to package holiday destinations abroad. The council is building a sports hall and looking for private investment to convert its outdoor pool into an indoor water park.

Weston-super-Mare *Holiday Which?* found "stagnant" with "an air of all-pervading apathy". The traditional seaside amusements, particularly the royal pier, are in a shabby state.

None the less there is an action plan for future development, and the council has converted its open air swimming pool into an amusement park. There is also a new sports and leisure centre and a heritage centre. Plans for the future include a £21 million conference and covered shopping complex and more sports and activities around the enclosed boating lake.

Scarborough actively promotes short breaks. Money has been spent restoring the spa and other historic buildings, and providing an adventure park for younger children. A £12 million renovation programme is planned for the older amusements.

Meals in package holiday hotels abroad are frequently liable to cause food poisoning because of faecal contamination, a survey says today in *Holiday Which?*

Of 17 samples of food taken from hotels in Rhodes, Majorca and Tunisia last summer 10 were contaminated with bacteria found in the human gut, the magazine says. The presence of *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* showed the food was likely to have been in contact with sewage and might spread disease.

Quality of beaches improving

By John Young

Seventy per cent of bathing waters in England, Wales and Northern Ireland — 262 out of 374 — met EEC quality standards last year, Lord Cairthness, Minister of State for the Environment, told the Lords yesterday.

That was a significant improvement over 1987, when only 62 per cent met the standards, he said. It reflected the water authorities' annual commitment of £70 million to improve coastal bathing waters.

Earlier Lord Cairthness launched this year's "blue flag" campaign for safe clean beaches, organized by the Tidy Britain Group and sponsored by the Water Authorities Association.

A total of 32 entries have been received for "blue flag" awards, denoting that the water is clean and the beaches free of industrial and sewage discharges, oil pollution and litter; are equipped with life-guards, life-saving equipment, first aid and sanitary facilities, and public telephones; and are cleaned regularly.

Last year only 17 beaches met the criteria, but the Tidy Britain Group emphasized yesterday that many of the "bathing waters" listed by the Department of the Environment would not be eligible for the awards scheme as they were remote and rarely visited.

Results will be announced early next month.

North-South gap on house prices 'is set to narrow'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The North-South gap on house prices has reached its peak and will begin to narrow as towns in the North catch up with their expensive counterparts in the South, a report published yesterday by Black Horse Relocation predicted.

One of the main reasons is that prices in the South have risen to such a level that the ratio between house prices and incomes is about five to one, the highest it has reached.

Even with the availability of money and low interest rates, "we are getting to a point where there is a limit beyond which people cannot go", Dr Andrew Broadbent, director of CES Ltd, which produced the report, commented. The company was previously the government-funded Centre for Environmental Studies.

As that prediction was being made the Halifax Building Society announced that house prices in Britain increased by a record 20.3 per cent in the 12 months to the end of April, confirming the recent strengthening in house price inflation.

In the three months to the end of April, prices increased by 9.2 per cent compared with 5.6 per cent in the same period last year, and house price increases in the first time buyer market showed a similar pattern, up by 20 per cent

in the past 12 months, and 8 per cent higher than in January this year.

The Halifax said that those substantial increases had happened earlier than expected. "We were predicting that house price inflation would be around the 20 per cent mark in the summer. However, we still expect some slowdown in the market towards the end of 1988 and in 1989 as lower economic growth affects the ability of first time buyers to enter the market."

Dr Broadbent said he believed there would be a significant narrowing of the North-South gap in the short term as prices stagnated in the South relative to the North. "The North is still comparatively cheap, but the number of areas where the standard of living is high are growing, and the best areas are going to be those towns on the fringes of the old conurbations, the old manufacturing areas."

Mr Stuart Mitchell, managing director, argued that companies and their employees in the South were beginning to reassess their prejudices and were prepared to move towards cheaper areas in the North.

Beyond the North/South Divide (CES Ltd, Black Horse, 59-60 Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1TA; £30).

Rehousing appeal

An end to the use of bed and breakfast hotels for the homeless within three months and an emergency programme to rehouse them in "permanent decent" accommodation in a year were demanded yesterday in a report.

The report, by the London Housing Forum, says that the elimination of homelessness and bad housing conditions

should be a priority for central and local government and other relevant agencies.

It urges the Government to give substantial resources for councils to invest in massive construction, renovation and repair programmes.

Speaking Out (London Housing Forum, Unit S1, Shakespeare Centre, 245a, Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8RR).

All quiet along the south coast front

By David Nicholson-Lord

The notice outside the lido at Margate, Kent, was explicit. "Keep out" it said, in red letters a foot high. Thirty yards down the road, an old iron gate creaked rustily open. It did not matter, because nobody wanted to get in.

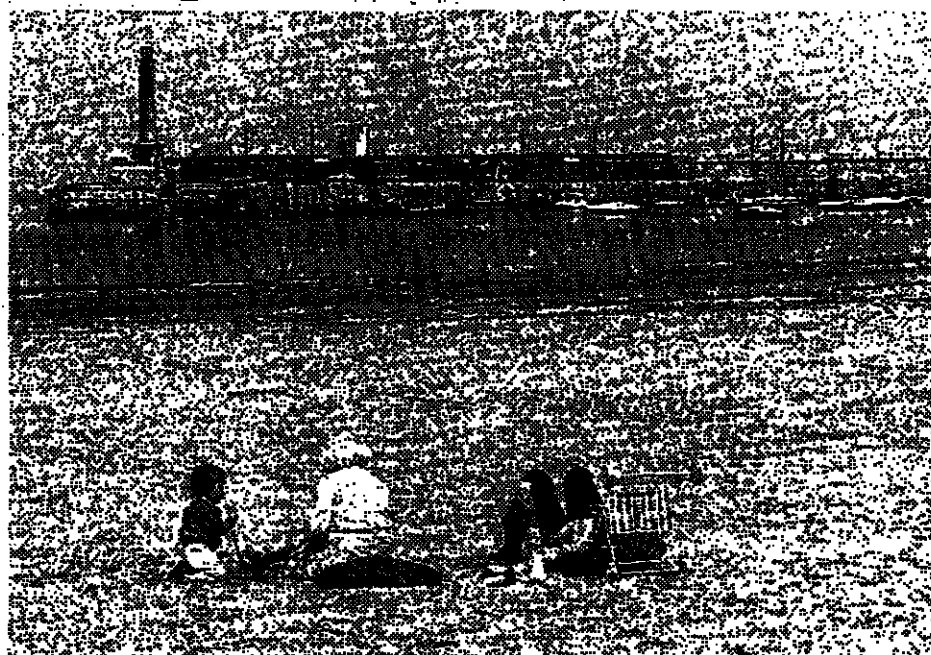
Margate appeared closed yesterday as a warm spring sun bathed its three miles of golden sands. The lido was closed, the Winter Gardens' box office was closed, the Sundeck Casino was closed, even the Bombardier Brothers theme park — "25 acres of white-knuckle rides", as the board boasted — was closed.

Only on Margate's sally-shrunk version of the Golden Mile, dubbed the golden 200 yards by locals, did the ping of electronic games and the worn tones of bingo callers disturb the reveries of a few pensioners strolling on the promenade outside.

Margate, jewel of the Kent coast, Blackpool of the South, and only true beguiler of the bathing machine, has fallen on hard times, and it shows.

A walk along the front, from Annes Pie and Mash café past Ye Oldie Humbug and Honeycombe Shoppes to McBombardier's Burgers and the Nayland Rock Hotel, shows why.

The Nayland Rock, empty for many years, is boarded up, a victim of fires and vandalism. The lido, waterless, sanded up and littered with rusting wire and car tyres, looks like a coastal gun emplacement. Signs of decay



A solitary family enjoys the sun on the deserted but still golden sands at Margate yesterday.

abound, from peeling stucco and flaking paintwork to an alphabetical jigsaw of letters missing from shop-front signs.

Half a mile out to sea is a former fragment of Margate's once famous Victorian Pier. Destroyed by a storm more than a decade ago it has survived several attempts to blow it up and has been left to its own devices.

Once, things were different. Mr Norman Cash, who retired to Margate from his job as an insurance agent in Birmingham 12 years ago, recalled yesterday his first

August Bank holiday at the south coast resort. "You couldn't move on the beach or on the prom for sheer numbers. Every year it gets thinner and thinner. The place is falling to pieces."

Of present visitors, he said: "All they do is get straight off the train and either into Bombardier's or the Kent hotel to get drunk."

The *Holiday Which?* report on British seaside resorts said: "As things stand, Margate today is a textbook illustration of the decline of our seaside. The resort's 'Golden Mile' is a

line of tacky amusement parks, shops and a couple of pubs. The number of hotels and boarding houses in the resort has more than halved in the last 30 years and what's left is cheap, but not always cheerful."

Mrs Ros Fassam, a marketing executive for Thanet District Council, described the *Holiday Which?* findings as unfair and negative. The town's tourism action plan, *A Case for Assistance*, was aimed at creating 2,500 jobs and increasing income from £45 million to £70 million.

Weekend food prices

Vitamin-loaded bananas are best buy

Bananas, Britain's most popular fruit after apples, are this week's best fruit buy at 35-35p a lb. They contain vitamins A, B, C and magnesium, iron and potassium, making them a more satisfying snack than cakes or biscuits, at just 80 calories a fruit.

There are plenty of excellent grapes including black Bartinka from the Cape at 50-90p a lb and Cape sultana grapes at £1-£1.30 a lb. Small pineapples, from 50p, are really cheap.

From New Zealand Cox, red, golden delicious and Gala apples are between 30 and 50p a lb. Pears from Australia and South Africa are 35-55p a lb and French and Italian strawberries are 40-65p a half lb.

Mushrooms are good value at between 40p and 60p a half lb. English and Dutch cabbages from 17p a lb. English greens at 20-35p a lb and cauliflowers from 25p each are among the best vegetables.

The selection of lettuce is excellent, with Cos, Webbs, round and iceberg

from 25-90p a head. English radishes at 25-35p a bunch, hothouse tomatoes 75p-£1 a lb and English and Dutch cucumbers at 25-55p are the best salad buys.

Bejam's selection of ice creams and ice lollies free from artificial colouring or preservatives should help parents caring for children with allergy-related eczema and hyper activity. Fourteen new lines include eight-portion tubs of Summer Bomb ice cream at £1.59 and Neapolitan Party Swirls (for six) at 99p.

Cod seems the best fish buy, with cutlets about £2 a lb and fillets £2.20. Coley and whiting are good value at about £1.20 a lb. Plaice is excellent at about £2.30 a lb for 6-8 oz fillets and £1.30 a lb for the whole fish.

Dover sole is cheaper this week, at about £4.60 a lb and other good buys are lemon sole (£2.35 a lb), brill (£2.50) and huss (£2.20). Freshwater fish in good supply are yike, £2.20 a lb, and rainbow trout, £1.80.

Home produced lamb is still quite

expensive but there are good reductions on leg joints, with the average price at £2.18 a lb. Boned leg is about £3.52 a lb.

Sirloin steak, up about 4p a lb to an average £3.14. Boneless topside ranges from £2.12 to £2.50 a lb and £1.89 to £3 in the South-east.

Leg of pork is down to an average £1.05 a lb. Boneless shoulder is from 98p to £1.54 and loin chops £1.24 to £1.58.

Meat and poultry special offers this week are Dewhurst whole legs of pork at 89p a lb and fresh chicken portions 79p a lb. Sainsbury's whole shoulder of New Zealand lamb is down 20p to 62p a pound, with home produced beef mince 96p a lb. Safeway fresh whole leg of pork is 98p a lb and fresh boneless leg of pork is £1.58.

Presto whole and half legs of pork are 98p a lb and centre cut leg of pork £1.18. Tesco pork chops are £1.18 a lb and fresh leg of lamb £1.79. Bejam 5lb packs of chicken quarters are down 44p to £3.15.

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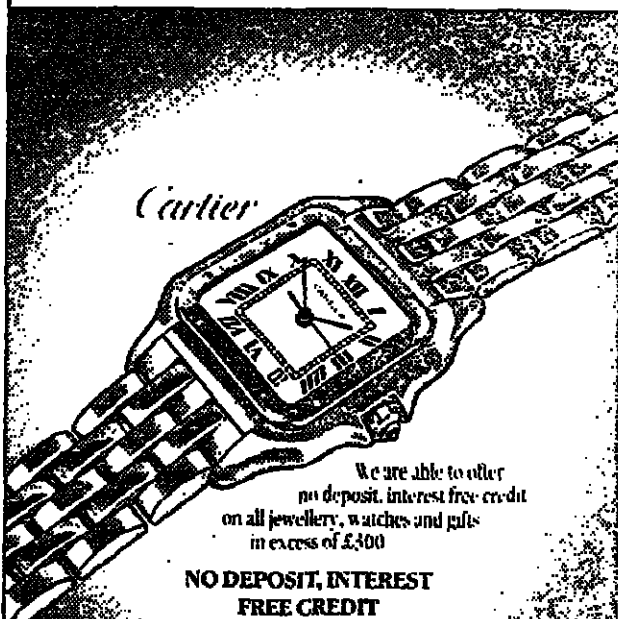
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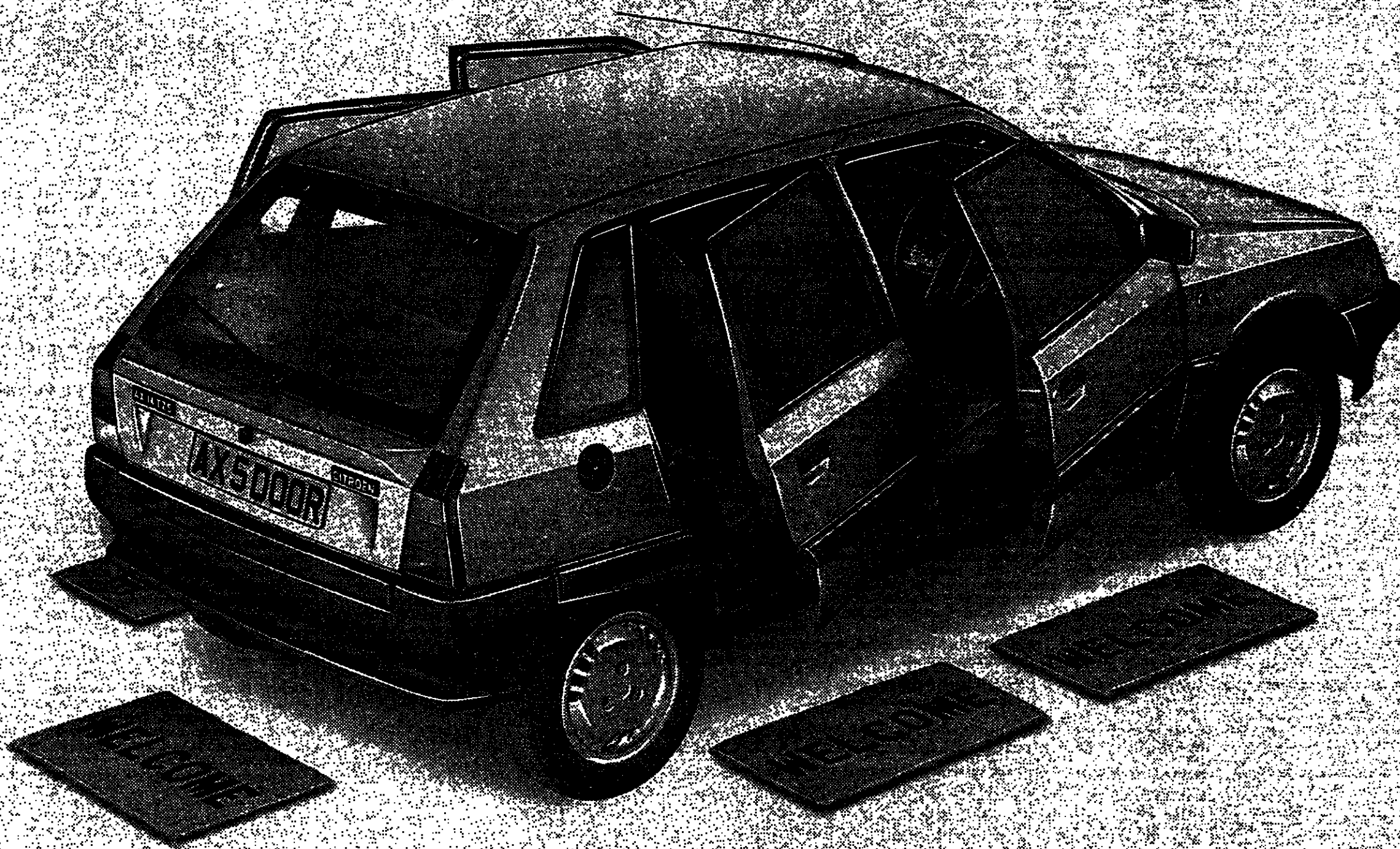
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French free captives in fierce attack on Kanak rebels

By Christopher Morris

Twenty-three hostages were rescued from a remote atoll cave in the Pacific yesterday after a bloody gunfight which left 18 rebels and two gendarmes dead.

The commander of the elite French anti-terrorist brigade, Captain Philippe Legorjus, who was held hostage but released as a mediator by native Kanaks in the troubled Pacific territory of New Caledonia, led the assault after he had smuggled two revolvers into the cavern and given captive gendarmes a key to remove their handcuffs.

Captain Legorjus told reporters he had won the confidence of the guerrillas and had been allowed to

move freely between the cave and army troops 330 yards away. The eight-hour assault on the jungle-covered cave brought immediate threats of a guerrilla backlash and a full-scale mobilization of French forces was ordered last night.

The crisis began 13 days ago when 27 hostages were seized initially during an attack on the police barracks. Later, 11 hostages were freed but almost immediately another eight, including Captain Legorjus, were taken prisoner after the French refused to negotiate on Kanak demands for the independence of New Caledonia.

The French Government had hoped negotiations would end the

siege, which had already lasted several days, and lead to the release of the hostages, among them Captain Legorjus, a magistrate and 21 gendarmes.

But negotiations, with Captain Legorjus as mediator, broke down and French patience was exhausted — particularly that of M Chirac. The hostages' ordeal ended when M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister and presidential candidate, ordered the troops to be sent in to rescue the hostages.

The order to attack was passed just before dawn to the military commanders on Ouvéa by M Bernard Pons, the French Overseas Territories Minister, who was directing operations from Nou-

mea, the capital on the main island. Three hundred French paratroopers and gendarmes airlifted by helicopter to the island had already surrounded the cave entrance where the rebels were hiding with the hostages.

Captain Legorjus had been captured while trying to negotiate with the kidnappers. The important breakthrough appears to have been the Kanaks' mistake in allowing him to be mediator.

After the rebels had tied a gendarme to a tree and threatened to shoot him unless the captain returned before a deadline, Captain Legorjus managed to smuggle into the cave two revolvers and keys to unlock the hostages' handcuffs.

The assault on the cave, amid thick jungle vegetation, took the Kanaks by surprise. The French attacked by land and from the air, with two helicopters hovering above the cave to drown out the noise of troops moving in.

The Kanaks were armed with rifles, pistols, axes and machetes, which they had used to hack to death three gendarmes when they raided the barracks on Ouvéa almost a fortnight ago — beheading the three and gravely wounding a fourth gendarme, who died three days later after being flown to Sydney for emergency hospital treatment.

There was furious fighting during yesterday's assault as the

French forces tried to enter the cave before the Kanaks carried out their threat to massacre the hostages.

Snipers pinned the rebels down but there were casualties on both sides, including the Kanaks' Libyan-trained rebel leader, Alfonso Dianou, who was shot dead along with 14 other Kanaks and two gendarmes.

Inside the maze of limestone caves the hostages were being held by about six Kanaks who were prepared to fight to the death and to kill their prisoners. Captain Legorjus was able to prevent a massacre.

When teargas shells were fired into the cave during a second

assault, the hostages' handcuffs were unlocked and they managed to scramble through an opening in the roof of the cavern and escape.

In this attack, three more Kanaks died and another was shot and seriously wounded.

In Noumea, M Pons expressed his satisfaction that all the hostages had been rescued and were "safe and well", although he regretted the loss of lives in the operation.

He immediately sent a message to M Chirac in Paris, who in turn promised that the hostages would soon be back with their families.

The exhausted hostages were last night flown to Noumea, exhausted but relieved that their ordeal was at last over.

Hostage triumphs bolster Chirac

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

As the three French hostages liberated in Beirut flew home yesterday for an emotional reunion with their families, the successful military operation to release another 23 people, held by Kanak militants halfway across the world in New Caledonia, provided M Jacques Chirac with a stunning pre-election double.

Trailing President Mitterrand in the latest polls, the Prime Minister desperately needed this dramatic boost and is striving to make the most of it in the two days remaining before polling begins.

In a brief speech of welcome after the three hostages had flown into the Villacoublay military airport near Paris, M Chirac declared that all France would rejoice at their safe return from the "nightmare", ended through the ceaseless efforts of his Government for a "dignified and honourable settlement".

In a clear reference to the imminent election, he insisted there could be no criticism of the Government's motives in bringing "this long and dolorous affair" to a successful conclusion after two years of intensive efforts.

Although the Prime Minister did not elaborate, he clearly had in mind the rumours that France had paid a huge ransom last November for the freedom of two other hostages held in Lebanon.

This was never officially denied, but on French television yesterday, M Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister who masterminded both releases, insisted that no cash had been given to the Islamic Jihad captors of the three freed yesterday. "Not a franc, not a dollar, not even an Iranian rial," he said.

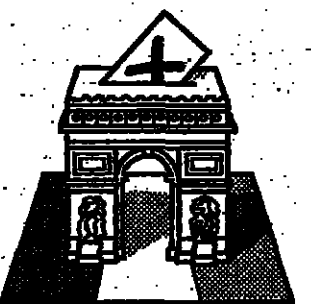
French sensitivity on this point was underlined yesterday when the Foreign Minister, M Jean-Bernard Raimond, told ambassadors from countries with nationalists still being held in Lebanon of the terms under which the

hostages were released. The British envoy, Sir Ewen Ferguson, was at the briefing and has forwarded a report to London.

For all yesterday's emotion, most observers believe the latest developments will have a limited impact on M Chirac's election prospects.

While many voters will have welcomed the news from Beirut and Noumea, it is hard to see enough changing their minds to eliminate M Mitterrand's commanding lead after the first round.

It was noticeable that the ceremony at Villacoublay was considerably more low-key than the welcome for the two men released in November.



Some analysts believe M Chirac's campaign managers cannot risk being accused of exploiting the event for narrow political ends.

A similar view prevails within the Mitterrand camp, where reactions from the President and senior advisers have so far been confined to expressions of satisfaction with the return of the last three hostages. Yesterday afternoon, M Mitterrand visited the three men in the Val-de-Grace military hospital where they were confined for 48 hours of observation.

Apart from pointing out discreetly that negotiations had started under the previous Socialist Government, Mitterrand advisers see no gain — and much potential harm — in raising the prickly issue of the price France has paid.

Although no details of this have yet emerged, some broad indications were evident from M Chirac's remarks at the

airport. It is clear that France and Iran, whose Government's "assistance and interventions" he readily acknowledged, hope to resume full diplomatic ties soon.

After thanking President Assad of Syria and the Lebanese military authorities for their contributions to the operation — and "a friend of France and Iran", clearly Algeria, for its help — M Chirac observed that Paris and Tehran could now look forward to more correct and normal relations.

That would certainly clear the way for the repayment of the remaining \$670 m (£372 m) France still owes the Khomeini regime from a loan made in the days of the Shah.

The possibility also exists that the French will now feel able to release an Iranian, Anis Naccache, who is serving a life sentence for the attempted murder of Iran's former Prime Minister, Mr Shapur Bakhtiar, and a French policeman eight years ago. (M Mitterrand has indicated that Naccache could be sent home once all the French hostages were liberated.)

This would certainly enrage M Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose characteristically blunt comment on the hostages' return contrasted sharply with the general mood. "Everyone is talking about a victory, but it's actually a defeat for our country," rumbled the leader of the National Front.

"There's only one way to deal with terrorists, and that's how things were handled in New Caledonia."

Later, in a carefully considered reference to the violent outcome of the hostage crisis in New Caledonia, President Mitterrand spoke of his "great sorrow" about the bloodshed. "The first priority had to be liberating those held hostages, but I would have preferred conciliation... I asked for all possible guarantees from those undertaking the task that they had considered the matter very carefully."

Parliament, page 12



M Chirac questioning M Philippe Seguin, Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, in Strasbourg after being told that the remaining French hostages in Lebanon had been freed.

Paris 'acted with honour'

Paris (Reuter) — Key excerpts from a statement by M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, yesterday after the return of the three remaining French hostages held in Beirut:

"Now that the captivity of our hostages has ended, the restoration of normal relations between France and Iran can be envisaged in keeping with

what we consider links between states should be."

"I should add that we want to interpret the return of our countrymen as a gesture made towards France, but also towards other Western countries. I hope with all my heart that the foreign (non-French) hostages (held in Lebanon) will also be released."

"I simply want to state that all through this painful affair the Government never ceased to act with dignity and honour. We complied strictly to the values we share with other democratic countries."

"Today, more than ever, France is determined to pursue with the greatest firmness the struggle against terrorism together with all those who believe in the (rule of) law."

"We heard about them (the Britons) and he said they told (him) they are alive." Mme Joelle Kauffmann said after her husband's return to Paris. "We don't know if what they say is true."

She said her husband had detested his captors, who humiliated him constantly. Mme Kauffmann said that he had not acquired the Stockholm syndrome, in which a captive grows to identify with, and support the aims of, their abductors. "He found nothing

'We will never forget the men we left behind'

By Our Foreign Staff

Tears of joy for those returning from three years in hell, tears of sorrow for the hostage who died in captivity, words of hope for the loved ones of the British and American citizens still condemned to a daily ordeal of cells and chains and blindfolds.

Before they were taken for two days of medical checks and observation at a military hospital outside Paris, the three Frenchmen released on Wednesday were able to add some precious detail to what little is known about the fate of those still in the hands of the kidnappers.

Choosing their words with evident care, emphasizing that their release does not mark the end of this hateful saga, M Marcel Fontaine, M Marcel Carton and M Jean-Paul Kauffmann drew deep on their diminished resources to recall everything they knew about the men left behind.

They said that three British and one American kidnappers in Lebanon were still alive, but their countryman had died of cancer.

The wife of M Kauffmann said that her husband's captors said that the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy, a journalist, and Mr Brian Keenan, an Irish teacher, were alive.

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She said her husband had detested his captors, who humiliated him constantly. Mme Kauffmann said that he had not acquired the Stockholm syndrome, in which a captive grows to identify with, and support the aims of, their abductors. "He found nothing

which justified their action," she said. "They were young men, of around 18 or 20, who humiliated him constantly. He told me he detested them during his entire detention."

M Carton, said he was held in Beirut with the American hostage Mr Terry Anderson, the Middle East correspondent of Associated Press, who was seized in March 1985, six days before M Carton, a diplomat, was abducted.

Asked how he survived in Beirut during his three-year captivity, M Carton said: "By reading books, playing dominoes and chess with my American friend."

Asked who he was held with, M Carton said: "Anderson. I can't stop thinking about him. We have to do everything we can to get him out of there."

M Kauffmann said that the happiness of his homecoming was marred by the memory of the death of his former cellmate M Michel Seurat, who "watched himself die of cancer."

"Michel struggled with despair and nobility. We last saw him on December 28, 1985, when he could not stand. He was transferred to a cell next door to us. We heard him for a few days, coughing horribly, and then nothing."

"It's an incredible day for the three of us, but we must not forget that there are only three of us."

"Michel died alone, he should have died with his family. It was a horrible end for him."

"We must not forget the Americans, the Britons and the German hostage, people like Terry Waite. At this moment they are hostages, leading a nightmare life in which you don't live, you just survive."

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israel ready to invade South Lebanon again

Jerusalem — Israel is ready to invade South Lebanon again "from time to time", Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said yesterday after being given a final briefing on the two-day "Operation Law and Order" which ended on Wednesday evening (see Murray writes). He said the army would initiate similar operations against other groups "in order to purge the security zone".

Three Israeli soldiers were killed in the battle on Wednesday to capture and destroy a Hezbollah (Party of God) base at Meidoun. More than 40 Hezbollah gunmen died.

Contra power battle

Washington — US officials are alarmed at a bitter power struggle within the Nicaraguan Contras that has divided the civilian directorate and split the military wing (Christopher Thomas writes). Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, spent an hour with the rebel leaders in an attempt to repair the damage and unite the movement at a time of critical negotiations with the Sandinista Government.

Much of the dispute surrounds Señor Enrique Bermúdez, the Contras' military commander. A petition signed by 49 commanders and civilian members of the Nicaraguan Resistance said his leadership had been dictatorial. Señor Adolfo Calero, who has called for Señor Bermúdez to be ousted, is also the facing attempts to remove him.

Rebels kill journalist Moscow — *Izvestiya* yesterday reported that one of its photographers had been killed and a reporter seriously wounded in Afghanistan on Wednesday in a rebel ambush north of Kabul (A Correspondent writes).

It is believed to be the first time that a Soviet journalist has been killed while covering the eight-and-a-half year long war in Afghanistan. The Soviet media only began reporting the conflict in any detail in the last year. The photographer, Mr Sergei Sevruk, aged 29, and his colleague, Mr Alexander Sekretariyov, were travelling from Kabul in a convoy on its way to the Afghan-Soviet border in readiness for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, scheduled to begin on May 15.

Kidnappers hold 11

Bogotá — The number of kidnappings in Colombia this week by guerrillas of the Marxist National Liberation Army was put at 11 yesterday, including the five European diplomats kidnapped on Tuesday (Geoffrey Matthews writes). The other victims are provincial politicians and journalists. The group, which seized the press officer at the French Embassy in Bogotá, two German honorary consuls, and two Swiss executives of the Colombian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, announced that it would release all the hostages within a few days with a document outlining its views.

Live from Everest

Tokyo — A joint team of Japanese, Chinese and Nepali mountaineers yesterday beamed pictures from the summit of Mount Everest for the first time (David Watts writes).

The team, commemorating the conquest of Everest by Hillary and Tensing 35 years ago, broke into the broadcast of afternoon baseball games on a national holiday with live coverage of their arrival on the peak. The pictures were sent via a small satellite dish to Kathmandu and then to Tokyo and Peking, where the news led early evening bulletins.

Man in the news

Shadowy role of negotiator

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

As the three French hostages freed from Beirut savoured the sunlight of a spring day in Paris yesterday another man was brought out from the shadows when M Jacques Chirac officially thanked M Jean-Charles Marchiani for his role in their release.

M Marchiani, also known by the alias Alexandre Stefani, was a man until recently declared non-existent by both the Foreign and Defence Ministries in Paris. He has become practically legitimate now that the nondescript label of "emissary" has been replaced, in the Prime Minister's own words, by "representative of the Minister of the Interior".

A fellow Corsican and long-time friend of the Interior Minister, M Charles Pasqua, the two men survived together to fulfil M Pasqua's dream of bringing out the remaining French hostages before M Chirac stood against M Mitterrand in the run-off for the presidential elections.

M Marchiani, aged 44, who, like M Pasqua, finds it exceedingly difficult to take "no" for an answer, is known officially as an "homme d'affaires" — a title with a much wider meaning than its English translation

of businessman. According to a statement by M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, yesterday after the return of the three remaining French hostages held in Beirut:

"Now that the captivity of our hostages has ended, the restoration of normal relations between France and Iran can be envisaged in keeping with what we consider links between states should be."

"I should add that we want to interpret the return of our countrymen as a gesture made towards France, but also towards other Western countries. I hope with all my heart that the foreign (non-French) hostages (held in Lebanon) will also be released."

"I simply want to state that all through this painful affair the Government never ceased to act with dignity and honour. We complied strictly to the values we share with other democratic countries."

"Today, more than ever, France is determined to pursue with the greatest firmness the struggle against terrorism together with all those who believe in the (rule of) law."

He returned empty-handed because, it is said, the kidnappers preferred to wait until after the first round vote in the presidential elections to see if M Chirac would still be in a position to keep promises.

M Marchiani is not a person who enjoys the limelight, despite the fact that he was accompanied on that trip by an Agence France-Presse journalist. When the plane carrying the freed hostages made a preliminary stop on the Paris military airport runway yesterday before taxiing up to the crowd of family and officials waiting to greet them, it was immediately assumed that this was to let off M Marchiani, or others like him, away from the glare of publicity.

He has worked since November, travelling backwards and forwards to the Middle East with his "team", to free M Marcel Carton, M Marcel Fontaine and M Jean-Paul Kauffmann. Twice in the

last two months, when he thought he was home and dry, last-minute hitches have robbed him of success.

The Kuwaiti airline hijacking last month meant a postponement of the agreement which had been reached, and directly after it was over M Marchiani was one of three people who flew into Beirut airport on a private Swiss jet to pick up the hostages.

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The lunchtime regulars at the Café des Amis would have much preferred to talk soccer than politics over their beer.

The journalists who had descended on Saarebourg, a town and ancient town on the eastern fringe of Lorraine, after the first round of the French presidential election had asked all the same questions and never bothered to listen to the answers.

"Because we gave Le Pen one of his best votes in the region, everyone assumed this must be a community torn apart by racial hatred," one young man observed. "It never occurred to them that people in Saarebourg just got fed up with living with high unemployment and an uncertain future for their kids and decided to give the political parties that have always run the country a good kick up the arse."

The most painful punishment was reserved for M Jacques Chirac, who had every reason to assume that Saarebourg was in the bag. As the fiefdom of M Pierre Messmer, a former conservative Prime Minister and now an immensely influential

figure in local politics, it had long been considered rock solid for the present Prime Minister's Rally for the Republic (RPR).

In the first round of the 1981 presidential contest, the mainstream conservative platform collared more than 60 per cent of the vote against the 21 per cent scored by M Mitterrand. In parliamentary elections five years later, the same grouping easily defeated the Socialists, though M Jean-

M Chirac's hopes of going down fighting with a respectable performance in Sunday's run-off poll rest upon winning back the vast majority of the votes that deserted the RPR.

Can he do it? "I still don't think the traditional parties on the right understand how the political landscape has been transformed in the Moselle," observed a Saarebourg businessman who voted for M Le Pen first time round.

"What happened here should be seen as a judgement on M Chirac's original refusal to make any concession to the views of people who would never have dreamed of backing the National Front a couple of years ago."

But I have all along regretted the treatment that Japan has received as a result of the War Crimes Tribunal. Japan alone has been branded as the aggressor."

Sino-Japanese war scars scratched raw again

From David Watts Tokyo

The freshly-healed scars of the Sino-Japanese relationship have been scratched raw again by a Japanese official's attempt to rewrite the history of the Second World War by denying Japanese aggression.

Even a five-day visit to China by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Sosuke Uno, has done little to repair the damage, despite the fact that the two countries mark the tenth anniversary this year of their treaty of amity. The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, will visit Peking later this year.

The latest friction rekindled tension only days before the Japanese minister arrived. It stems from remarks by Mr Seisuke Okuno, director of the National Land Agency, after he had visited Yasukuni Shrine commemorating

Japan's war dead. He claimed that Japan was not the sole aggressor in the Second World War and had been fighting white colonization of Asia.

As a measure of how seriously China takes the incident it was taken up not only by Mr Uno's opposite number but also by Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. Mr Li's reference to "problems" in the bilateral relationship was taken to mean Mr Okuno's comments, a dispute over the ownership of a student dormitory in Kyoto, and a shotgun attack by gangsters on a Chinese consulate in western Japan.

A former section chief in the dreaded Thought Police in Kagoshima in southern Japan, Mr Okuno was one of 11 such individuals who made their way into senior ministerial positions after the war, either by hiding their past from the

American occupiers or because they were useful. Mr Okuno once held the justice portfolio.

Like many on the right who had positions of authority during the war, he believes Japan has nothing to apologize for, and resents not only the imposition of Japan's American-written constitution but also the Allied version of history which has pre-dominated since 1945.

Older Japanese still regard the wartime China as a wayward "elder brother" who had to be brought to his senses through military control. Mr Okuno speaks for many on the right who are unable to resist making their case when criticism of Japan arises in South Korea or China, both regarded by Japanese as inferior.

The Chinese were probably hoping that the advent of the Takeshita Government would mean a change

in tone after several incidents during the Nakasone Administration.

Though Japan has China to thank for the origin of its culture, including the written language, the modern hierarchical relationship is complicated by the fact that, in the eyes of many Japanese, China is a backward, underdeveloped country which has no business telling Japan how to conduct its internal affairs.

Mr Okuno accused the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, of "twisting around" the Japanese people. His comments came after Mr Deng's remark that he regretted the existence of a handful of Japanese who did not wish to see the improvement of Sino-Japanese relations.

The regular visits to Yasukuni Shrine made by senior government and party officials in Japan appear to the Chinese as worshipping at the shrine of Japanese militarism.

Yasukuni was the national shrine at the head of the then state religion under Emperor Hirohito.

To some in Peking it appears that Japan's apologies for the war when diplomatic relations were restored 16 years ago mean nothing.

Mr Okuno is unrepentant. Answering questions from Japan Socialist Party in Parliament he clearly had no intention of withdrawing his remarks. "The whole of Asia at that time was colonized by the white race. Now as a result of that great Asia war they are completely independent nations. This is a welcome development in my view."

But I have all along regretted the treatment that Japan has received as a result of the War Crimes Tribunal. Japan alone has been branded as the aggressor."

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'Dirty tricks' victim tipped to win German state poll

From John England, Kiel

Almost eight months after Schleswig-Holstein provided West Germany's biggest political scandal with the exposure of dirty tricks by the Christian Democrat Prime Minister in an election campaign, the Social Democrat challenger he tried to discredit appears most likely to emerge as the new state leader on Sunday.

More than two million voters, many of them bored by a

● Hopes doomed for a centre-right government ●

gentlemanly and lacklustre "new style" campaign, are being asked to turn out in a premature election after a poll last September resulted in a hung Parliament.

According to opinion polls, Herr Björn Engholm, aged 48, the Social Democrat front-runner, will win an absolute majority in the traditionally conservative state with about 50 per cent of the vote, an increase of almost 5 per cent, going to his party.

The Christian Democrats, led by Herr Heiko Hoffmann, aged 52, has been in government here for 38 years. The opinion poll gives the party 36 per cent, a drop of 6.6 per cent and its Free Democrat allies

under Herr Wolf-Dieter Zumpfort, aged 42, about 6 per cent. Thus the parties' hopes of forming a centre-right government, as in Bonn, appear doomed. The only other party expected to be returned to the new state assembly, is the one-MP South-Schleswig Voters' Association which represents the Danish-speaking minority and does not have to hurdle the 5 per cent barrier to parliamentary seats. The Greens are given no chance of breaking into the assembly.

Herr Engholm, a slim, handsome, former typesetter who for a short while was a federal education minister under former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, is making his third try for the post of Prime Minister. But he admits that a few months ago, amid the dirt of Kiel's "Barschel affair", he came very close to retiring from politics.

The late Herr Uwe Barschel, then the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, was exposed by one of his press aides as having tried to smear the up-and-coming Herr Engholm ahead of the election on September 13. When the scandal broke, Herr Barschel, aged 43, denied all charges against him and held a nationally-televised press conference at which he gave West Germans

his "word of honour" that he was innocent.

But he resigned a short while later and in October was found dead in the bath of his room at a hotel in Geneva. The Swiss authorities found that Herr Barschel had died from an overdose of tranquilizers and sleeping tablets. His widow claimed that he was murdered.

In Kiel and Bonn, Chan-

● Battle of gentle knights has left voters uninspired ●

cellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats surveyed the wreckage with gloom. The September election which analysts said had not been influenced by the disclosures, had robbed the party of its absolute majority of 16 years and left it and the Free Democrats with 37 seats in the 74-seat assembly, the same number as the Social Democrats and South-Schleswig grouping combined.

The Christian Democrats stayed in caretaker government pending new elections and used the time to put their house in order. Heads rolled of several men who had been close to Herr Barschel and Herr Hoffmann, the Justice

Minister, was presented as the party's new "Mr Clean" top candidate.

He and Herr Engholm, under a "fairness agreement" have been dealing with each other with kid gloves to the point where a West German newspaper this week described the election campaign as the "battle of the gentle knights".

Despite the opinion polls, the Christian Democrats and Free Democrats say they believe they still have a chance of forming a government. They estimate that up to about 25 per cent of the electorate is still undecided about its vote on Sunday.

The Christian Democrats, however, are worried about losing discontented supporters, especially among the state's almost 30,000 farmers and their families, to a few small far right wing parties. Such protest votes cost the Christian Democrats more than 2 per cent in an election in Baden-Württemberg in March, although it narrowly retained its absolute majority.

The party here can afford no such margin for desertions, nor can it survive massive abstentions. The latter are seen as a distinct possibility, with the turnout likely to be much lower than the previous 76.6 per cent.

Drought-hit city says it with flowers



The Queen receiving flowers during a walkabout in Albany in southern New South Wales yesterday as she passed the end of her three-week tour of Australia with the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen was left high and dry on a paddle steamer which should have taken her on a river cruise but which instead remained firmly stuck at its moorings because there was not enough water in the River Murray (Christopher Morris writes). The Queen was making the first visit by a monarch to Albany, the much-publicized highlight of which was supposed to have been a cruise

on the paddle-steamer Camberona. But a notice pinned up near by put paid to that. It read: "No cruises until further notice, possibly September." The royal couple went on board but the embarrassed captain could only show them around the paddle-steamer just to kill the 30-minute time allotted for the cruise that never was. Unlike northern New South Wales, which was last week inundated by floods, the south is in the grip of a severe drought, and the level of the Murray has dropped alarmingly. The Camberona is a replica of an original vessel and a major tourist

attraction built specially for Australia's bicentenary and for the Queen's cruise. Normally the £320,000 vessel can operate along 50 miles of the river. Earlier the Queen held an investiture on the royal yacht Britannia in Sydney Harbour at which one of the heroes of the Zeebrugge ferry boat disaster received the OBE. Commander Jack Birkett, aged 48, from Portsmouth, was in charge of Royal Navy divers who rescued several passengers after the ferry capsized. He now lives in Sydney, where he is an instructor with the Australian Navy at a mine warfare school.

British airman slept through IRA ambush

From Richard Owen, Roermond, The Netherlands

With British bases in West Germany still on the alert yesterday for further IRA attacks, Dutch police said their investigation into the shooting last Sunday of three British airmen at Roermond had suffered a series of setbacks.

Senior Aircraftman Richard Garth returned to Britain yesterday from the RAF hospital at Wegberg after telling Dutch police that he had no recollection of the shooting, in which his colleague and close friend, Senior Aircraftman Ian Shinner, was shot dead.

Like his two companions, he had spent the day drinking in bars in the town. He told police he had slept through the ambush.

Dutch police and British and West German investigators had hoped he would provide key clues to the Roermond shooting. Police hopes are now pinned on the third airman, Senior Aircraftman Ian Lewis. But he has had a foot amputated, and doctors say he will not be fit to speak to them for "days if not weeks".

The bodies of the three airmen who died in last Sunday's two attacks will be returned to Britain today from RAF Wildenrath, close to the Dutch-German border.

Before he was flown to RAF Nutholt yesterday, Senior Aircraftman Garth, who was wounded in the shoulder, told police he had returned to the airmen's parked car, a two-door VW Golf, at midnight last Saturday, after spending most of the day in bars with Senior Aircraftmen Shinner and Lewis.

He fell asleep at the wheel, and remained unconscious throughout the attack. He told police he had not heard his two companions return to the car at about 1 am, nor had he been aware that a gunman — or gunmen — emerged from the shadows to pump bullets into the car, killing Shinner, who was in the passenger seat and seriously wounding Senior Aircraftman Lewis, in the back seat.

According to witnesses, he got out of the car after the shooting to help Lewis out of the back. But medical sources said he did not even realize he had been hit until he reached the hospital.

The two British detectives

who spent two days in Holland making detailed forensic examinations at Roermond and at Nieuw Bergen, where a car bomb went off outside a disco popular with British servicemen, left on Wednesday night after compiling a detailed report.

Police sources said the British experts were still exchanging information with their Dutch and West German counterparts. West German police are still examining the bomb found under a British Army captain's car at Bielefeld in West Germany on Tuesday, to establish if it is of the same type as the IRA bomb at Nieuw Bergen.

Late on Wednesday night Dutch police staged a reconstruction of the Roermond shooting, with eight witnesses who have come forward with evidence of a car seen driving away just after the incident. But they said the reconstruction had revealed very little, and witnesses were still unable to agree on the type or colour of the getaway car. The number plate, part of which witnesses memorized, appeared to be West German rather than Dutch.

Yesterday Dutch police were also trying to unravel conflicting details of the discotheque bomb at Nieuw Bergen. Senior Aircraftman Andrew Kelly, who survived the blast in which his two companions were killed, was moved yesterday from his hospital near Venlo in The Netherlands to the RAF hospital at Wegberg.

Before leaving for Wegberg, he told Dutch police that all three airmen in the Nieuw Bergen incident had been sitting in their Ford Escort when it blew up. Senior Aircraftman Kelly, who was badly injured and was only able to speak briefly to investigators, said the car had been reversing out of its parking slot outside the disco on the town's main square when the bomb went off.

But police said they were at a loss to explain how he could have survived when his two companions were unrecognizable after the huge explosion. Earlier accounts by witnesses had suggested that the car blew up as he was approaching it or as he was opening the passenger door to get in.

15 in ship tragedy

Manila (Reuters) — At least 15 people were killed when a ship carrying up to 200 sank off the central Philippines yesterday, military and Coastguard spokesmen said. Lieutenant Cesar Cejigas, a coastguard station commander, said that 40 people had been rescued but that at least 15 people died when the converted cargo launch MV Heman sank off western Samar province on Visayas island. Lieutenant Cejigas said a search for survivors had been abandoned because of darkness.

Foreign fears

Singapore (Reuters) — Dr Yoo Ning Hong, Singapore's Communications and Information Minister, has warned that "foreign elements" are trying to discredit the Government.

Actors angry

Stockholm (Reuters) — Sweden's unemployed actors have denounced "Operation Vacuum Cleaner", a scheme that would require them to choose between working as hospital orderlies or receiving no further state payments.

Poll deaths

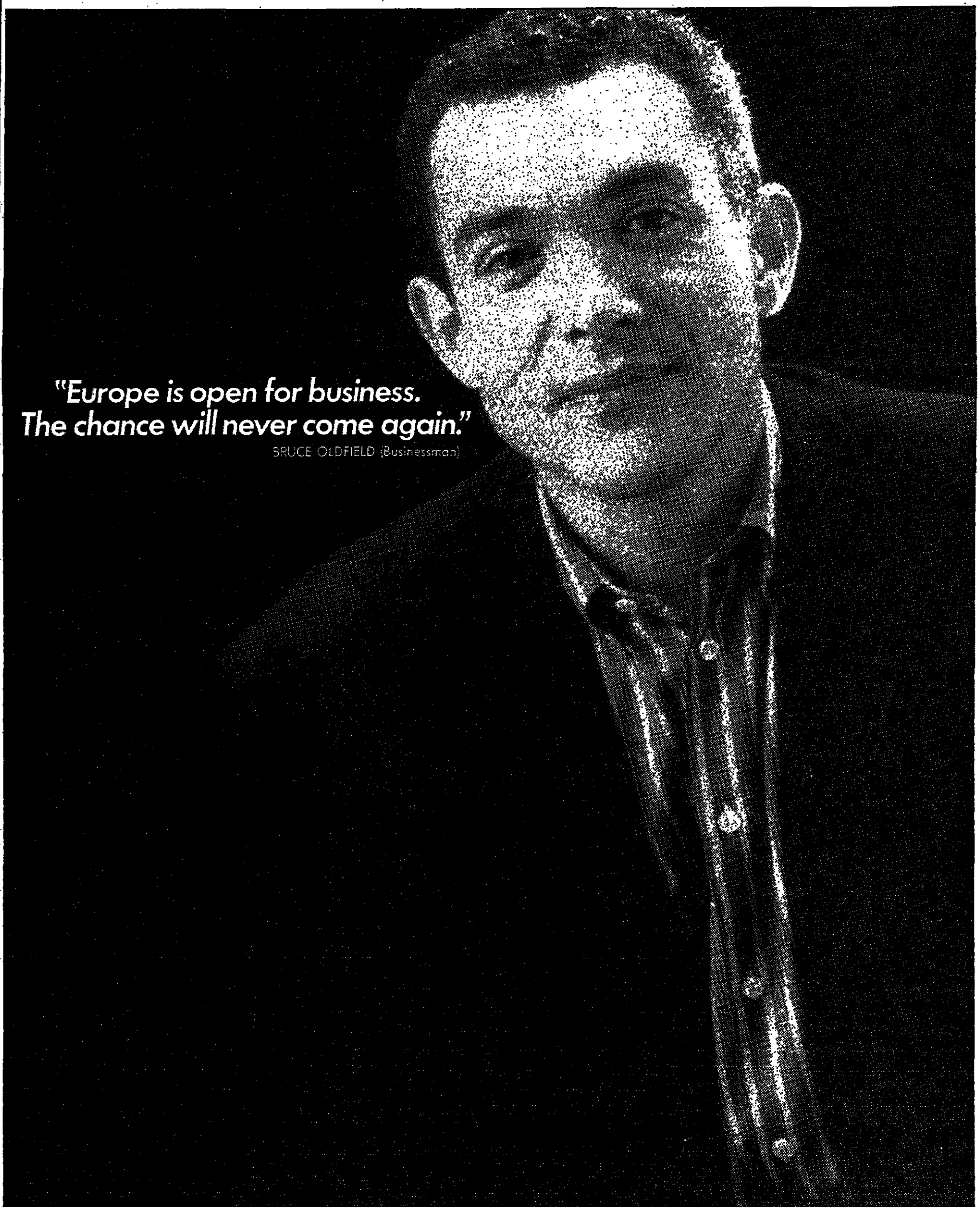
Colombo — Two candidates of the ruling United National Party contesting the provincial council elections were among four people shot dead by the proscribed Peoples Liberation Front, security sources said.

Sulphur leak

Moscow (Reuters) — Fifty-one people were taken to hospital with gas poisoning after hydrogen sulphide leaked from a gas refinery in the Urals, the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya reported.

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Democrats try to pin down California's shifting spirit

From Charles Bremner, Los Angeles

With the smoke of the big primary battles clearing, party strategists are looking beyond the Rocky Mountains to California, the rich state-nation that could dictate the outcome of November's election.

Their concern is only partly the June 7 primary elections, the last in the season along with New Jersey.

For the Democrats, the day has already been dubbed "Jesse's last stand". The Rev Jesse Jackson is mounting an all-out effort to break the momentum of Mr Michael Dukakis, but with a black electorate of only

two native sons who dominated Republican politics here for two decades, is telling everyone Mr Bush will just win by winning in California.

For the first time in 20 years, the race is wide open in the state and Democrats are talking about possible victory. Where California gave President Reagan and his "anti-government" revolution to the country, it now appears to be leading the retreat from his ideas, and this is the spirit that Mr Dukakis must seize.

Ten years after California enshrined the rule of minimum taxes with its Proposition 13 ballot, there is a widespread feeling that things went too far. With crumbling roads, education and health care, opinion polls are showing growing support for higher government spending.

Even many Republicans were appalled last year when Governor George Deukmejian fought a bitter legislative battle to hand back \$1 bn (£536,000) to the taxpayers from an unforeseen surplus. The cheques were duly posted.

Mr Hal Kwalwasser, a senior Democrat who managed the campaigns here of Mr Jimmy Carter and Mr Walter Mondale, says that for all his modest personal appeal, Mr Dukakis has a formula that interests the state.

He is projecting himself as a seasoned budget-master — tough enough to carry through welfare policies without hectic spending. "If he sticks to that general message he has a real chance of carrying the state," Mr Kwalwasser said.

California rejected Mr Carter and Mr Mondale as "abysmal" spendthrift liberals, he said. Mr Dukakis looks more reasonable and could pull

back the moderate Republicans who backed Mr Reagan.

The biggest feature of this year's national campaign is the conflict between growing support for more government spending and the continuing domination of the first commandment of new, higher taxes. One of the ideas now circulating among Democratic planners is for Mr Dukakis to propose earmarking new taxes



Mr Jackson: Little chance of an upset in his "last stand".

specifically for some politically popular purpose.

Though the gap has been narrowing, registered Democrats in California still outnumber Republicans in the state. As the son of immigrants, Mr Dukakis also holds a strong hand with the swelling Hispanic and Asian communities. In a demographic development that portends much for California's future, the Asian and Pacific island population of the 28-million strong state has overtaken the black population.

Mr Dukakis will be helped by the weakness of Mr Bush. As an Ivy League Republican, he has little natural following and he suffers from the huge shadow of his master. "He has

no base in California," said Ms Eileen Padberg, his campaign manager.

Mr Bush's best hope, in the opinion of many, was to recruit Mr Deukmejian as his running-mate. However, that has been ruled out because the Governor would have to hand over to a Democrat for the rest of his governorship, and also because he has lost political ground by mishandling a dispute over a state appointment and losing several high-technology projects to other states.

The local Democratic Party could prove a handicap for Mr Dukakis. Mr Willy Brown, the powerful Speaker — effectively leader — of the State Assembly in Sacramento, has become embroiled in squabbling with dissident Democrats known as the "Gang of Five".

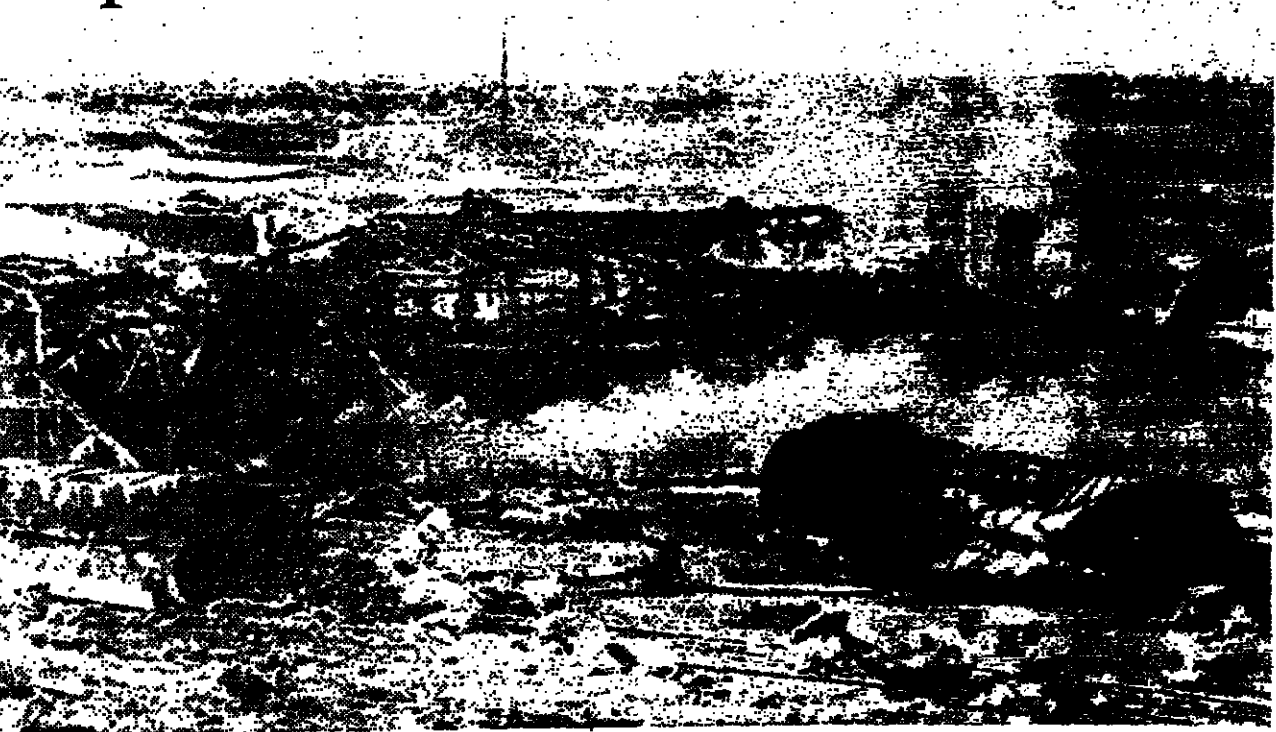
Mr Brown, a black, is also Mr Jackson's national campaign manager and his fervent organizing in California has opened a schism in the party. This week Mr Brown was laying the groundwork for a ferocious California campaign, predicting Mr Jackson would win about half the delegates thanks to support from the people who backed Mr Gary Hart in 1984.

"I think Jackson is going to be the beneficiary of the Hart vote. Not so much the Hollywood part, but the Hart vote that is environmentalist, gay and peacenik," he said.

In their struggle to convince supporters to make the effort to vote in the primary, Dukakis organizers keep reminding them of the Hart example.

In keeping with a tradition of provocation, Californian Democrats chose Mr Hart over Mr Mondale, the front-runner and eventual candidate in 1984.

Explosion wrecks US rocket fuel plant



Gutted railway wagons smouldering yesterday at the site of a space shuttle fuel plant at Henderson, Nevada. A powerful explosion turned the plant, 20 miles from Las Vegas, into a fireball on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring 150.

Pretoria backs peace initiative

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, yesterday linked this week's talks in London on Angola and Namibia to the recent exchange of goodwill messages between President Botha and President Chissano of Mozambique.

He said they should be seen as part of a "serious" new peace initiative in southern Africa.

Mr Botha also appealed to American legislators to reconsider, in the light of this initiative, a Bill now before Congress which would greatly stiffen US economic sanctions against South Africa.

Growing concern about the

implications of the pending legislation is thought to be one reason for South Africa's presence at the London talks, in which Angola, Cuba and the United States also took part, and for the relatively upbeat assessment by Mr Botha of their outcome.

Reports in the South African press yesterday speculated that a follow-up ministerial-level meeting would be held in the next few weeks somewhere in Africa.

The new Bill is considered likely to be passed more or less unchanged by the US House of Representatives by early June, but faces greater resistance in the Senate. It would ban

American investment in South Africa and impose a near-total trade embargo.

There is little evidence so far that the South Africans are doing more than playing along with the current negotiating efforts on Angola and Namibia while it suits their purpose.

Nothing suggests they are prepared to grant independence to Namibia. It is inconceivable that Cuba and Angola would agree to send home the estimated 40,000 Cuban troops in Angola unless South Africa pulls out of Namibia.

Namibia provides Pretoria with a shield against guerrilla infiltration and enables it to

station its forces within striking reach of black nationalist bases. Without control of Namibia, Pretoria would also be unable to provide effective military assistance to the Angolan UNITA rebels.

The attitude of the South African military seemed adequately reflected in the provocative staging of a parade in Oshana, near the Namibia-Angola border, earlier this week to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the raid on an alleged guerrilla base at Cassinga in southern Angola in which several hundred people died. The South Africans claimed those killed were terrorists.

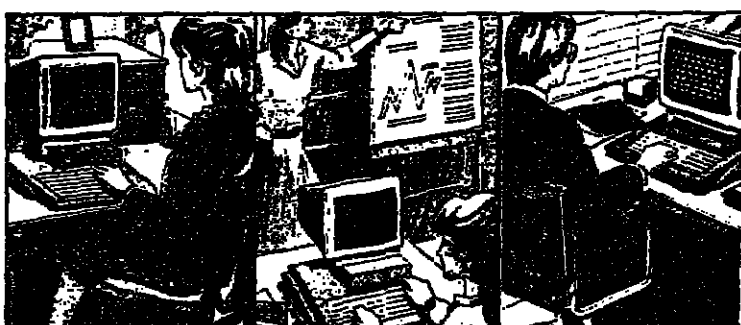
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Gdansk braced for raid to end shipyard strike

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

"Today or tomorrow," said the militiaman, dressed in his riot fatigues, a dark speckled green uncannily similar in shade to snakeskin.

"Probably tonight," whispered a nearby workman grimly. There was no need to ask which event everyone was talking about. Van after van of militia and police passed into the area around the Lenin shipyard where 3,000 strikers and the leader of Solidarity, Mr Lech Walesa, were sealed off from the outside world. Everyone in Gdansk knew the authorities were about to make their move.

As the police extended their cordon further towards the old town, militiamen cleared the area of all but those who could prove they lived in the dilapidated pre-war houses near the shipyard.

In this part of Gdansk, with naval personnel visible among the riot police, it seemed there was nothing novel about conflict. Even a stone's throw away from the militia cordon, under the pinnacles and lofty gables of one of the finest 17th century cities in Europe, the inhabitants of Gdansk were putting a brave face on the crisis which has posed the first serious challenge to the Government's economic reform programme.

Irritated by the enforced identity checks, frustrated by the long queues for trams, with scores of police rerouting traffic, the residents were determined to preserve their celebrated good nature.

"Not a good day to be in Danzig," a bespectacled old man remarked, poring over admiralty charts in a second-hand book shop less than half a mile from the shipyard. A naval officer buying an out-of-date copy of *Jane's Fighting Ships* added enigmatically, gazing at the sky outside the towering brick mass of Gdansk Cathedral: "Stormy weather ahead".

Ironically, thunder and lightning have provided a dramatic backdrop to the events at the Lenin shipyard this week. On Wednesday night, it was observed with satisfaction among people living near the shipyard that after a scorching day, an hour-long storm had drenched units of the detested Zomo, or riot police.

But even the most sanguine of Solidarity's supporters admit that the atmosphere is not comparable to that which reigned when Solidarity was born at the Lenin shipyard in 1980.

"It cannot be the same. Then, there was hope, today there is still hope but also fear," said a student from the nearby university, which is on strike in sympathy with the shipyard workers.

The news that the strike at the Nowa Huta steelworks in southern Poland had been ended early on Wednesday morning by riot police throwing stone grenades added a new dimension to this fear. Official

reports saying that anti-terrorist units were employed have added to the intimidation.

However, Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said in Warsaw yesterday: "It is not in the interests of the Polish Government to solve Poland's problems by force. Reform and conciliation continue."

These remarks were difficult to reconcile with the security forces' action at Nowa Huta and Mr Urban's own condemnation of Solidarity as an organization promoting "terrorist activities".

Despite the mediating efforts of the Catholic church in Poland, it was apparent last night that the Government is



Mr Urban: Using force is not in Poland's interest.

resolutely resisting any calls to recognize or even talk to the Solidarity leaders.

By accusing them of behaving in a way related to terrorism, the Government no doubt hopes to persuade the majority of Poles that its resort to force is justified. It is doubtful if this will shore up the credibility of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's Government. "Look, these are the terrorists," said an angry taxi driver, pointing at the vans of militiamen parked in a suburb where the night guards' shift was resting.

Few people are prepared to believe the Government's assertion that machinery has been damaged and force has been used within the shipyard by Solidarity workers.

As the clouds built up to another likely storm in the late afternoon yesterday, the name Solidarity appeared damped in giant white capitals over neighbouring shipyards.

Riot policemen began packing people near the Lenin shipyard gates to move out of their homes for the next 48 hours.

The music academy less than 50 yards from the shipyard gates was closed. Omnipotently, militia vans also took up positions outside hotels where journalists were staying.

Inside the shipyard, the workers, who only 24 hours earlier had sung patriotic hymns at the main gate, withdrew from behind its bars, still bedecked with pictures of the Pope and flowers, to buildings further inside the compound.

Clearly thunder was imminent.

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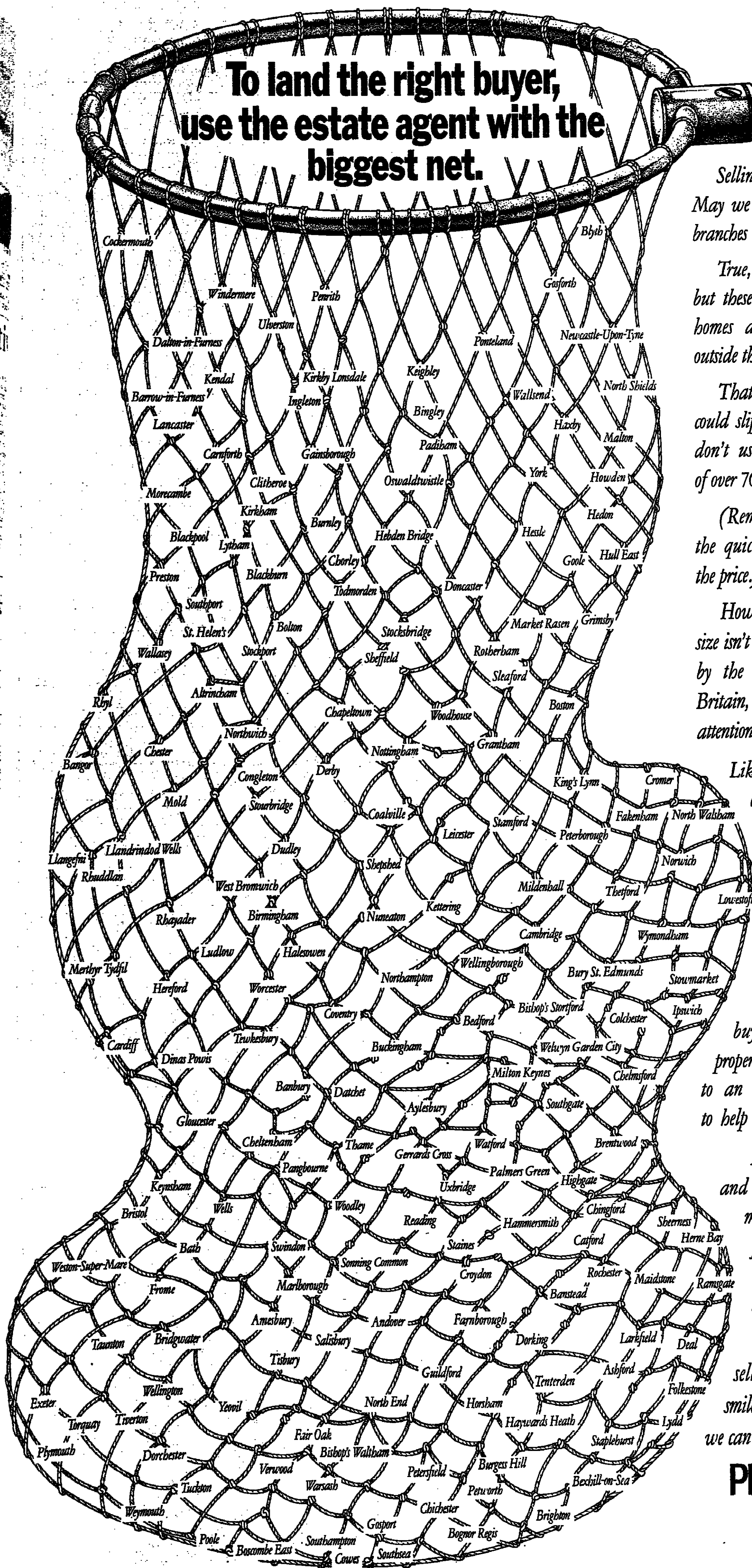
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PARLIAMENT

Labour 'wrong to be on P&O picket line'

It was not remotely helpful to the outcome of the P&O dispute for the Labour Party to have joined in and for Opposition spokesmen to appear on the picket line, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Commons.

He was replying to a private notice question by Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, asking for the latest developments in the dispute.

After Mr Fowler had outlined the situation, Mr Meacher said that the NUS sequestered had frozen the pensions of retired NUS members involved in the dispute, had prevented the original and wholly legal dispute with P&O being serviced and had put a stop on death and accident claims.

"This is contrary to the principles of natural justice and harsher than any other previous sequestration. Se-

questration on the basis of secondary action is wholly unjustified" (Conservative protest).

It was a purely legal pretence that the Sealink issue was entirely unconnected with the primary dispute with P&O. The chairman of Sealink had said: "If P&O does win, we are obviously asking our trade unions to accept the same manning levels".

The NUS had offered arbitration and agreed phasing in of the full P&O proposals within three years originally demanded by P&O and with the Channel tunnel at least five years away.

"Will the Government now use its good offices to bring P&O back to the negotiating table? It is their intransigence and their unreasonableness which is the sole cause of this continuing dispute."

The present P&O proposal to recruit untrained crews, to cut crewing levels by 20 per cent and introduce an 18-hour shift day again put at risk passengers' safety only 13 months after the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster.

Had he seen the *Brax Tacks* programme, which had revealed dangerous undermanning, the use of unserviceable and unreliable equipment and ships' officers being fatigued?

Would the Government exercise its power under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1970, to ensure that industrial safety was paramount? Or was the Secretary of State deterred by the £100,000 contribution that P&O had made to Conservative Party funds last year? (Conservative protest)

Mr Fowler: He cannot come straight from the picket line and expect that we are going to accept what he says as an

objective statement of the position of the dispute (loud cheers and protests).

He would do much better as far as the Sealink case is concerned if he would persuade the union to accept the ruling of the court and stop this secondary action.

It is not remotely helpful to the outcome of this dispute for the Labour Party to have joined in and for Opposition spokesmen to appear on the picket line (Conservative cheers).

As far as safety is concerned, there is no truth whatsoever in what he is suggesting. There has been general inspection of both ships and their equipment. That was carried out in Rotterdam by Department of Transport surveyors. Emergency drill procedures were conducted before the ships left Rotterdam.

So far as an inquiry or arbitration is concerned, ACAS can be brought in at

the request of the two parties. I must emphasize that it is up to the two parties and no inquiry will settle issues which relate, apart from anything else, to commercial judgement of the company faced with new competition.

So far as sequestration and the law is concerned, it seems to me that the NUS had every opportunity of avoiding sequestration. Of that there is absolutely no doubt.

The judge himself said that "members and their leaders have only themselves to blame. This is the clearest possible case of deliberate attempted suicide."

He, the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition, must accept that unions are not above the law (Conservative cheers). If they act in defiance of court orders, they must accept these orders to be enforced. I hope he will make clear now his support for the law as far as these affairs are concerned.

TV chiefs are urged to have care for law

PRIME MINISTER

Television authorities should realize, when considering programmes such as those about the shooting of IRA members in Gibraltar, that they could not agree with the rule of law, and then tout it, the Prime Minister said during question time.

She said that it had not been the Government's intention, when they decided to set up a broadcasting standards council, to refer such questions to it.

"I would prefer to think that television authorities properly to uphold the rule of law, which is the fundamental safeguard of the freedom of all of us."

Mr John Goss (Hendon North, C) had asked whether it would be the Government's intention, when setting up the broadcasting council, to be able to refer such matters as the programmes about Gibraltar to the council.

Mrs Thatcher: That had not been the intention. It was more with regard to standards of violence and matters of that kind that we agreed to set up the council.

I would prefer to think that we could rely on the television authorities properly to uphold the rule of law, which is the fundamental safeguard of the freedom of all of us.

One cannot agree with the rule of law and then flout its conditions. I hope we can persuade them that that is so.

Earlier, Mr Richard Page (South West Hertfordshire, C) said that because some television companies were indulging in trial by television before the proper legal processes were completed, the Prime Minister should consider strengthening the guidelines by which these companies were controlled.

He also urged her to consider whether these companies were the right ones to protect the balance which would be nec-

essary when the Commons was televised.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the televising of the House was being considered by a select committee and it would wish to make its own recommendations for the House to decide.

Trial by television was not so much a matter of the specific rules, but rather a dependence on the customs and conventions that had been referred to by Lord Justice Salmon.

He had said that they would not wish to see trial by press, television or radio and that that had been avoided only because of the high sense of responsibility of the press, television and radio, and that did not seem to be there now.

The real danger was that witnesses whose evidence was vital to matters under investigation were questioned without any of the safeguards which applied in courts of law. It was one of the proudest boasts in Britain that the rule of law was inviolate.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) asked, in view of what she had said about ITV and BBC programmes, whether she would express similar concern about the decision of the Attorney General not to prosecute police officers involved in similar incidents.

That must be grossly prejudicial to inquiries there, and the unprecedented delay of six years was such that a just and equitable solution was not now possible.

Mrs Thatcher disagreed. She said that the decision of the Attorney General was in accordance with the due and proper processes of law. It was entirely different from trial by television.

Assassins 'disgrace'

A Commons early day motion describing the SAS men who shot three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar as "assassins" was disgraceful, Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said at business questions.

The motion sought to twist the knife in the spine of the British serviceman. It should be debated so that the public could decide whether it was the intention of some Labour MPs to do all they could to undermine the fight against terrorists who had killed three innocent servicemen in cold blood.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader

of the Commons, said that the Government's concern was with the interference with witnesses before an inquest. There was no question of seeking to question the constitutional independence of the broadcasting authorities.

Later, during points of order, Mr Michael Fallon (Dorset) asked Mrs Thatcher if a ruling should be made on the standard of language acceptable in these motions.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that if there was any doubt about an early day motion it was always brought to his attention and this particular motion had not been.

Tebbit attacks secondary action in ferry dispute

Continuing the questioning about the P&O dispute, Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C) said that secondary action was action taken against those with no means of influencing the primary dispute. It was therefore rightly outlawed.

Those who suffered from it should have recourse to the courts for relief and damages. Mr Fowler said that he entirely agreed. Trade unions had no right to spread a strike to companies unconnected with a dispute, no right to stop workers going to work and no right to force them if they failed to persuade.

The Opposition would do better to point out the value of the law in industrial relations and use their influence to get the unions to accept it.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, SLD) said that dialogue and reconciliation were a much better way to try to work out these problems instead of taking entrenched positions. Would Mr Fowler use his good offices to encourage a dialogue?

The P&O ships linking Scotland and the mainland were now in port and would not sail, but the NUS had agreed that emergency provisions would be carried. If the Aberdeen offices of the NUS were sequestered how would the union get the message through?

Mr Fowler said that there had already been substantial movement from the original proposals as a result of which crew rostersing arrangements had been improved and the working day had been reduced.

The proposals which had been made were sufficiently attractive for more than 1,000 of the staff to have accepted them and 5,000 to 6,000 people to have applied to work on these jobs under these conditions.

The second part of the question was for the Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr David Shaw (Dover, C) said that 5,000 P&O and Sealink employees in Dover and Folkestone wanted to work. Many trade unionists had approached him and other MPs, asking the unions to have a secret ballot

STRIKE LAW

and the unions had refused to have one on the P&O terms.

The 24 hours on and 24 hours off work system was already employed in Sealink, and P&O's only requirement was that they wanted to pay their employees more than Sealink did to work the same system.

The MP for Folkestone (Mr Michael Howard) and he were rather concerned about acts of intimidation in their constituencies.

Mr Fowler said that since last Tuesday there had been 14 arrests for various public order offences, and 61 reported cases of intimidation, ranging from point daubing to threatening telephone calls.

It should not be a matter of dispute in the House that such actions should be condemned, not just from the Government side but from the Opposition front bench.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that the NUS was one of the most democratic unions in the country. It held secret ballots regularly.

The outcome of the secret ballot was that most members decided not to accept the Blue Book and certainly not the Red Book which P&O were trying to impose on them. If they accepted this it would be "a form of slave labour".

Last Saturday in Heysham harbour, the port master actually cut the ropes of the *Tynwald*, the Isle of Man boat, putting all craft in the harbour in jeopardy. Was that an illegal act? What would the Government do about that? "They are quick enough to support the union being taken for sequestration."

Mr Fowler said that if Mr Heffer or his friends wished to report that action, it would be investigated by the police. "That is exactly what the law means."

It was patently absurd to talk about slave labour. More than 1,000 P&O employees had accepted these conditions, and between 5,000 and 6,000 people had applied for jobs advertised under these conditions.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) asked

Mr Fowler to bear in mind the appalling contraction of the Merchant Navy during the past eight years, and the need to avoid any further contraction and damage which a prolonged dispute would involve.

The obvious solution must come out of arbitration. Would Mr Fowler urge this course on both parties?

Mr Fowler said that he would not do that. It was a matter for the parties concerned.

The lesson of what Mr Shore had said was that British companies trying to be competitive were also trying to protect British jobs. "If these ferries become uncompetitive the only people who will gain will be overseas competitors and overseas union members."

Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset, C) said that secondary action was not only illegal but also against the interests of the P&O strikers because it had stopped the NUS from being able to support those strikers.

Mr Fowler said that secondary action had been to the disservice of everyone, but mostly to the travelling public and to those wishing to send goods from this country to Europe.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said that the abolition of the ban on secondary action was being used to destroy the NUS which represented seafarers on whom the nation's welfare had always depended.

"That is absolutely in line with the policies of Mussolini and Hitler who began their attack upon democracy by outlawing trade unions in Italy and Germany."

"Following upon the banning of trade unions at GCHQ, and the abolition of the GILC and the metropolitan counties, it is not clear that the Government is set on the systematic destruction of democracy in this country?"

Mr Fowler: He is not only being absurd, he is making himself, frankly, a laughing stock.

Sir Ian Lloyd (Havant, C) said that there had been grave allegations about standards of safety on the P&O ferries. The allegations should either be substantiated immediately or withdrawn.

Mr Fowler said that the allegations were simply untrue.



Mr Meacher: The proposal to recruit untrained crews puts passengers' safety at risk

Farming income down by half

Farming incomes had declined in general by about half in real terms since 1977, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told MPs at the start of a debate on agriculture.

He said that he was well aware of the pressures on these incomes, although he was not sure that those who freely commented on the "protected, favourable" position of farmers were.

In 1983-4, about 68 per cent of them had incomes of less than £10,000; about 24 per cent earned between £10,000 and

£20,000 and about 8 per cent more than £20,000. The situation had not improved since then.

"Very many farmers earn what would be regarded as a very modest wage, given the hours they and their spouses put in, often in very difficult weather conditions."

The paradox was that these pressures were occurring at a time when support for agriculture had been rising significantly.

Expenditure since this Government had taken office had risen by 28 per cent in real

terms. That totally belied accusations that one sometimes heard that Government support was diminishing.

They must face up to the fact that more land and more farmers would have to go out of agricultural production. After this process, most land would still be in basic food production.

The subsidy cost of the cereal regime had been rising sharply since 1984. It was unsustainable at that pace, especially if it provoked a further international trade war.

One part of the answer must be to take more land out of

cereal production. That was crucial if they were going to solve this problem.

Progress was being made on the reduction of intervention stocks. In August 1986, there had been 1.4 million tonnes of butter in intervention, 10 months' supply. In February, it was half that figure. With skimmed milk powder the improvement was even sharper.

Cereals had also been reduced. Wheat which had been at 10 million tonnes in 1986, was now at three million and there had also been reductions in barley and rye.

France 'paid no ransom'

The British Government sought and received an assurance from the French Government that it had not paid ransom to those holding its nationals hostage in Lebanon, Mrs Thatcher told the Commons at question time.

Mr William Boyson (Milton Keynes, C) said he was aware of the grave concern many of us feel at what appears to be French capitulation to terrorism. Will she convey this disquiet to the French premier (M Chirac)?

Mrs Thatcher: Our policy on hostages has not changed. We do everything we can to inquire about them and to persuade those holding them that it is totally wrong and that they should be released unconditionally. We will not pay ransom or make payment of that kind for hostages to be released.

We asked the French Government for an assurance that they have assured us that they have not paid a ransom.

Support for hanging

The Prime Minister repeated that capital punishment would be a matter for the House as a whole to decide "when the expected debate on capital punishment is held soon."

Dame Elaine Keleher-Bowman (Lancaster, C) said that her constituents backed the Prime Minister's support for the death penalty but believed that if terrorists were executed, they would not escape to kill again.

Mrs Thatcher, who has voted in the past in favour of capital punishment, replied: She knows my view on capital punishment.

Struggle to cut costs

The European Community spends £12.5 billion a year on intervention stocks of food, Mr John MacGregor, Minister for Agriculture, said at question time. That was not just the cost of storage but also the cost of disposal of surplus stocks.

"That was why we took such a strong line in negotiating for CAP (common agricultural policy) reform, which we have successfully carried through. I have always made clear we have to get these costs down."

Thatcher rejects Kinnock onslaught on benefit change

The Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, again clashed over the Government's new social security arrangements and poll tax proposals. Each accused the other of failing to understand the system.

Mr Kinnock said that in her letter to him this week, Mrs Thatcher had said that what was important was the total income of individual people and not the security of their income. He strongly agreed with that.

How would she respond, therefore, to the case of a 76-year-old widow - (Conservative interruptions) - Tory MPs

would have many cases like this and they had better listen to the Prime Minister's reply as they would be themselves - the widow had written that her only income was her pension, due in April for a £1.30 rise, bringing it to £44.68, but there was £1.68 on rates which left her a little worse off.

She had to put away £25 a week for bills such as electricity, gas and life insurance and that left her with £18 a week to live on. It was not much fun. Her home, like herself, was getting worn out. She had got £400 in the bank but dared not break

into it as it was for her funeral.

Many thousands of people were in the same position. Would the Prime Minister change her social security and poll tax policies again in order to remove the 20 per cent rates of liability of people like that widow?

Mrs Thatcher said no. If the lady was within income support there was full transitional protection.

Widows in general would greatly benefit from the community charge because they would pay a lot less than they would have done under the rates

system Mr Kinnock wished to support.

Regarding those who were poor, there was either an 80 per cent rebate or, for those on income support, they received 20 per cent of the average rate to enable them to pay their rates or community charge.

Mr Kinnock said that this lady lived in a borough where the average rate was lower than the outer London average and lower than the national average.

In the Prime Minister's own constituency (Finsbury), the average rate was £678 a year, 20 per cent of the average liability

was £137.40 or £2.64 a week. To offset that 20 per cent rates liability the DHSS paid £1.30 a week.

How did £1.30 a week offset £2.64 a week?

Mrs Thatcher said that if there was an average payment, then obviously some people would do very much better and some would not in fact get as much. Mr Kinnock brought forward one or two losers but forgot about all the gainers.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister did not understand her own system. The

DHSS provided £1.30 a week towards the extra liability people had on 20 per cent of the rates liability wherever they lived.

How could it be that somebody on an income like the lady he had mentioned on just over £44 a week was now worse off as a consequence of having to meet that 20 per cent liability? When she got £1.30 a week extra was she a loser or a gainer? When she had to pay £1.38 a week extra for rates was she a gainer or a loser?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had already answered him.

Earlier, the case of another widow had been raised by Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab). He said he had a letter from a widow in his constituency who before April 11 had been receiving housing benefit and she was now being told she was no longer entitled to it.

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Haynes must therefore think terrible things of the previous Labour Government, bearing in mind that this Government had spent far more on social security and housing benefit and people had a far higher standard of living now.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday and Tuesday: Finance (No 2) Bill, progress on committee stage.

Wednesday: Debate on Opposition motion on housing. Private Bill: Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill, second reading.

Thursday: Debate on prisons. Private Bill: City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Rear Seat Belts by Children) Bill, remaining stages. Misuse of Drugs Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Local Government Finance Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Education Reform Bill, committee, third day.

Wednesday: Debates on nursing in the NHS and on the telemedicine system.

Thursday: Education Reform Bill, committee, fourth day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's Bill: Abortion (Amendment) Bill, report stage.

Security plea for pub landlords

There were reservations in the licensed trade on the way in which the Brewers' Society code of practice on tenant security was operating in practice, Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C) said during Commons questions.

One alternative would be to give the code of practice statutory backing over the publicans could be made subject to the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954.

Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, suggested that the tenants themselves, through their associations, should press brewers to stick more closely to the code of practice.

If Mr Colvin thought it appropriate, he could introduce a measure to codify the code in legislation. It was not for him (Mr Thompson) to do that now, nor to encourage landlords or tenants to move to the 1954 Act.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) asked Mr Thompson what he could do about a company that rode roughshod over the livelihoods of people wherever it was allowed to operate.

He wanted an inquiry into the divesting by Scottish and New-



Mr Thompson: Tenants should apply pressure

castle Brewery of its shares in a concern in Scotland and into the loss of jobs there. An inquiry would reveal the irregular and unreasonable way that the company operated.

Mr Thompson said that the pressure of the market and market forces did not always work "in the direction of tenants, landlords or brewers". He did not think that such an inquiry would be sensible or clear in the form in which Mr Campbell-Savours had suggested it.

'Macbeth' attitude to firms attacked

The following report of a Commons debate on the British Aerospace takeover of the Rover Group appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government was playing the role of Lady Macbeth in its approach to industry, washing its hands of it - Mr Norman Mitchell, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said during the debate.

He said that the merger had as much synergy as if Rover were merged with the manufacturer of the fluffy dogs that sat in the back of cars.

The Government had betrayed, was now betraying and would continue to betray the car industry.

Opening the debate, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, said that the terms of the takeover were a valuable assurance of a period of stability for Rover and the Government hoped that the European Commission would give a speedy and favourable decision on them.

The terms were fair, sensible, and a good bargain for the taxpayer and the company. The group was not one that could easily sustain uncertainty about its future.



Mr Gould: Opposition's very grave disquiet

Whatever sale had been considered, it would have been necessary to tackle the situation of the historical and irrecoverable losses. The £800 million injection by the Government was to tackle genuine indebtedness and was not a cash injection.

"The company needs to be allowed to get on with the business of making and selling passenger vehicles. That is a view shared by the majority of employees."

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that the survival of the last independent British volume-car manufacturer was at stake. The Opposition wanted to preserve it and see it expanding and prosperous.

It did not want anything to do to jeopardize what it now believed to be the very fragile future of this industry. But it was entitled to express very grave disquiet about what the deal would mean for the industry and how it might be five years from now.

The stability which was so important would best be achieved by the maintenance of the present ownership. The onus was on the Government to explain why this deal somehow improved the prospects of the industry. He thought that there were good reasons why the deal worsened them.

Rover needed an owner with a commitment to long-term investment. He did not believe that the present deal offered that commitment.

What did BAE know about making cars? How could it make sense to put these two companies together? It might look good on the balance sheet, but

not one iota of strength would be added to Rover as a car manufacturer or to BAE as a plane-maker.

Far from being anxious to invest its non-existent hundreds of millions of pounds, BAE itself had been cutting back, reducing its workforce and closing sites and plants.

Mr Roger King (Birmingham, Northfield, C) said that talks between Rover, BAE and the EEC were at a delicate stage. If the EEC got tough and demanded big changes that were unacceptable to BAE, where would that leave Rover?

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SPECTRUM

Rush hour in the sky

This was the crowded scene in the air over southern England at 5.08pm last Thursday. There are 79 aircraft up there. Brian James met the men whose task it is to prevent the passenger's nightmare — an air collision

If you are the sort of person who tends to go into panic mode and giggle hysterically when a computer game becomes too crowded by events — Dragons leaping from two dungeons doors as a Snakepit yawns and the pursuing Wizard gains ground — you should not attempt to become an air traffic controller.

It does not trivialize the task of controllers, on whose efforts the stake is not a 10p token but hundreds of lives, to compare it with the skills of mere game-playing: the common factor is a concentrated ability to think in compartments, to apply uncorroborated judgement, to make time-space calculations and then act with decisive speed. Last year, up to mid-December, there were one million aircraft flights through the London Flight Information Region, an area covering England and Wales with borders to Europe (Scotland and north-west approaches form a different region). That is roughly 150 flights in or out per working hour: a full 10 per cent up on the previous year's 900,000 flights.

And that is the reason why, after several recent "air misses" — when aircraft report flying closer to each other than safety margins permit — air traffic control has suddenly acquired a high profile. Those who travel often, wondering whether they would be wiser to fly now from other airfields, or to take the train, have many questions: the London Air Traffic Control Centre, behind the wire of RAF West Drayton, is where questions are answered.

First, they shatter an illusion. I was the thousandth visitor, said the general manager, Chris Barrows, to remark on the fact that they were not housed in a green-glass bowl on top of a control tower, ready in emergencies to lean out of a window and fire a red warning flare.

That might have been how it once was, and a bit like it is at Heathrow and other airports which control aircraft for the last 25 miles or so of their descent. Now the substantial work is done in a maze of offices, gently humming with the work of 1,250 men and women, banks of communication equipment, and a much-maligned computer (the one always blamed for the delay of your charter to Tenerife, though it was only "down" for six hours last year), soon to give way to a £22 million replacement.

The men on the leading edge are the controllers, 120 of them on each of three eight-and-a-half-hour watches. They are the men — youngish mostly, impetuous all, the opposite of Big Bang breakers — whose quiet voices guide the pilots. They work in teams, supported by assistants who pass information, input computer data, and are supervised by sector chiefs.

To know what controllers do, a sight of the overall system is necessary. Aircraft arrive and depart along airways, 10-mile-wide corridors between VHF beacons. These lead, in the cases which concern West Drayton, to the London Terminal Control Area, a sweep of land from the Isle of Wight to Cambridge, from the Thames Estuary to the Cotswolds.

The controllers direct

planes through a congested layer of space from 6,000ft above ground to 24,500ft. (Above this, a controlled stratum up to 65,000ft is for aircraft over-flying the area: the free space below 6,000ft is used by small aircraft, balloons and helicopters.) The controllers pass aircraft from sector to sector, finally delivering them to the "stacks", a sort of spiral staircase where they loiter — at about 250mph — and wait for airport controllers to summon them in for final descent on the glide-path.

The controller spends his two hours on watch hunched over a circular screen 2ft in diameter, showing the entire region, the dull orange screen might be lit up by as many as 300 bright blips. Each is a moving aircraft. More usually the controller will have the screen focused to show just the London Terminal area, with perhaps 40 blips; he will himself be concentrating on an even smaller sector.

At each sweep of the radar, each blip lurches forward, perhaps a sixteenth of an inch, leaving a trail of fading lights to show the direction of passage. A secondary radar has picked up a code from the aircraft which it translates to provide a label beside the blip: "BA373 24011" tells the controller this is British Airways flight 373, at 24,500ft, heading for Heathrow.

He is other source of information is strips of computer printout in plastic holders on which are aircraft details. That knowledge — which blip is a fast-climbing shuttle, which a labouring, loaded jumbo — is essential, as the controller watches his charges converge, turn, cross and depart on his orders: "KL405, clear to climb to 8,000ft... BA477, you may turn left on bearing 070 and descend to 12,000ft... TW005, hold on 6,000, await instructions from Heathrow." At any time, a controller will be in constant contact with, typically, six to 10 aircraft (though it can be as many as 20), and the blips representing them may occupy an area only 3in or 4in square. If these aircraft are not kept apart at least five miles horizontally or 1,000ft vertically, an "occurrence" will be recorded. The radar, radio and computer records will at once be impounded, and the controller sent to data-processing duties until an investigation is completed.

Did the consequences of a mistake haunt this room, half the size of Wembley pitch and filled with a subsonic of electronic machinery and very little unnecessary chatter from humans? Absolutely not, said Barrows, himself a former controller. "What you see here is concentration. The job is demanding, totally. But these chaps are not depressed by that. I'd say rather that the pressure, the stress, hones them. They are extroverts, competitors, team players, and the amount of off-duty socializing emphasizes that. "But you see why we think so many who've done our two-year basic course and then come to us for final training. They may do well on the simulators. But here, facing the real thing, quite a few show a lack of maturity, a

recalling from the responsibility. They have to go." What about the ones who crack later? Few do, said Barrows, as a result of the job. But some have been unable to cope with simultaneous pressure from outside, such as bereavement or divorce. "Men are taken off the screens for an hour, a day, a month, whatever is necessary." The rewards are not lavish. Top-grade ATC officers earn £24,600; agreed rises will bring this to £28,000 (over £30,000 for seniors) by 1990. This for a

work regime of six shifts per 10 days, with an average of 127 days off per year.

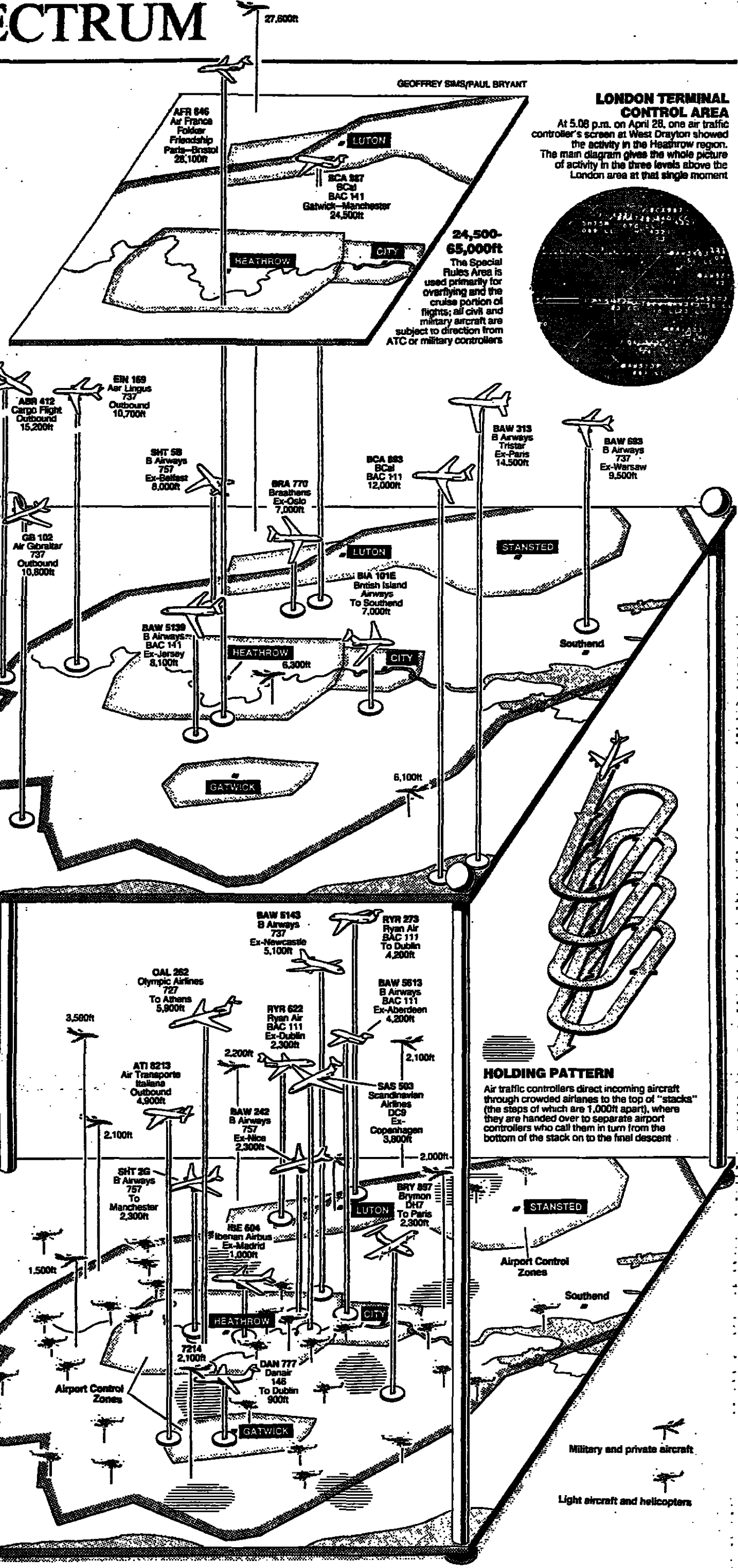
The debates that surround air traffic control are many. Should the pricing mechanism (each flight across controlled airspace is logged and charged to the airline) be used to force business away from Heathrow to provincial airports? Should congestion be eased by cutting the curfew on night flights? Should airlines be made to use larger aircraft but fly fewer services between cities? In particular, should the

industry go back to its previous policy of not announcing air misses unless compelled to by leaked information? Chris Barrows is clear on this: "Ten years ago, we were investigating far more incidents than now, and no one knew. But a passenger looking out of a window, seeing a plane a bit near and then ringing the tabloids with a scare story, has become a pretty bad way of telling people the facts. "For two months now I've been putting out press releases

on any incident. This has given a false impression of the present state of safety in the air." In fact, more than half of all incidents involve light or military aircraft outside controlled space, thus not jeopardizing airline passengers. Of incidents in the last year of statistics, more than half — 104 out of 175 — were technical breaches involving no risk. And despite large increases in traffic in UK air space (from 398,000 flying hours in 1977 to 573,000 hours in 1986), the number of in-

cidents involving commercial passenger aircraft has steadily declined, from 45 down to 16. The capability now exists to equip control consoles with an automatic "conflict alert" which would trip bells and lights when aircraft converge. In a crowded zone like Heathrow, however, false alarms might sound continuously. "Like burglar alarms in the High Street," Barrows says. "People might stop hearing." Experience with a similar system at the Maastricht control centre in Holland indicated a swift onset of complacency among controllers.

A scheme to pass aircraft their directions by cockpit computer print-out instead of by radio contact is from this same stable of technical possibility. But might the passengers in the scores of aircraft shown in our diagram not have felt more secure knowing that every mile of their passage was observed by human eye and monitored by human judgement, and that their pilot was in communication with a human voice?



LONDON TERMINAL CONTROL AREA

At 5.08 p.m. on April 28, one air traffic controller's screen at West Drayton showed the activity in the Heathrow region. The main diagram gives the whole picture of activity in the three levels above the London area at that single moment



6,000-24,500ft

Aircraft are directed between main terminal zones along beacon-marked airways, maintaining a distance between each other of either five nautical miles horizontally or 1,000ft vertically

BELOW 6,000ft

Inside the borders of the London Terminal Control Area, aircraft without specialized navigation aids must fly below the ceiling and outside the control zones which ring main airports

HOLDING PATTERN

Air traffic controllers direct incoming aircraft through crowded airways to the top of "stacks" (the steps of which are 1,000ft apart), where they are handed over to separate airport controllers who call them in turn from the bottom of the stack on to the final descent

SATURDAY

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator

At least
£8,000
to be won

Insider trade

Britons are turning to interior designers as never before. Is there more to them than "I see it in pink, darling"? Experts like Mary Fox Linton (right) explain the decorator's art



I·N·G·E·N·U·I·T·Y Round Five

● Ingenuity is a general knowledge competition being played over 18 days — and for those who may have missed them, we will repeat the first week's questions tomorrow. The authors of the first six correct entries to be opened at the end of the competition will each receive a set of the 1988 Encyclopaedia

- Who became the husband of the central character in *Wide Sargasso Sea*, in another novel?
- Disease seen for the last time in Somalia. Officially said to have been wiped out in 1977 and again in 1980.
- What kind of huge fish did Richard Walker give to a zoo?
- Order to which Dr Jules Guyot, Lord Derby and Josephine de Malines belong.
- A swan that shares its name with a wood-engraver

Britannica, in a Constitution binding, worth £2,280. ● The answer to each question is a single word or name — but the number of letters in the answers do NOT correspond with the number of boxes — except for the longest of them. ● Cut out this coupon and keep it until the end of the contest

- Much loved bear who celebrated a 21st birthday on television in the early 1970s.
- What herring boxes became, for Clementine.
- What do vessels from Derby, Chelsea and Bow share with other ships?
- Country in which Shia Moslems have a religious community called "The Movement of Hope".
- Panza's island-city, linked with *The Gondoliers*.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1557

- ACROSS
- Boil (6)
 - Little dell (6)
 - Medieval guitar (7)
 - Boiling water vapour (5)
 - Weeps (4)
 - Faithful supporter (8)
 - Elbow room (6)
 - Open for discussion (6)
 - Decode (8)
 - Prison (4)
 - Advantage (5)
 - Heavy domestic fowl (7)
 - Slender (6)
 - Be imminent (6)
- DOWN
- Flag (3)
 - Uganda main airport (7)
 - Scrum possession (4)
 - Not confident (8)
 - Glow (5)
 - Gruyere-like cheese (9)
 - Play backer (5)
 - Raw youthful period (5,4)
 - Booklet (8)
 - Cupidity (7)
 - Intoxicating (5)
 - Whooping bird (5)
 - Rim (4)
 - Deity (3)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1556
- ACROSS: 1 Quai d'Orsay 8 Chinook 9 Sitar 10 Maps 11 Feathered 13 Badge 14 Lapse 16 Apparent 18 Stab 21 Clamp 22 Thieves 23 Forsyther
- DOWN: 1 Quipped 2 AWOL 3 Duke Ellington 4 Resettle 5 Al-star 6 Scum 7 Trudge 12 Decrepid 13 Branch 15 Palaver 17 Pismo 19 Bass 20 Sign

TIMES DIARY THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Last weekend Major Ronnie and Mrs Archdale lent their much haunted Elizabethan house, Breccles Hall, for a party to launch the Camp Hill Trust in Norfolk. Forty-four years ago, to the month, the previous owner, Venetia Montagu, gave a party with a very different, but equally deserving objective, to say goodbye to her close friend Rex Whistler.

Whistler, who had been training with the Welsh Guards in Norfolk before leaving for the D-day landings, painted four pictures for the occasion. Three, which he hung on the panelled walls of the great hall, were given to his family after his death. The fourth was a mural of Bacchus painted on the only piece of unpanelled wall. Unfortunately the surface, chalky and unprepared, had in the past been subjected to damp so that Bacchus is now showing his age by flaking badly. The Breccles' Bacchus is Whistler's penultimate mural: he painted his last while awaiting embarkation on the south coast before being killed during the battle for Normandy.

Experts have told the Archdales that to restore the painting would be a very difficult and expensive operation. Meanwhile, as the paint flakes off, it reveals the pencil underneath, so it is possible to follow Whistler's train of thought. Bacchus was originally to have held a tumbler, but in deference to his hostess's famed generosity he changed it to a champagne glass.

It was intriguing to watch government ministers at a recent party at the American embassy plotting their course round the room so as to avoid confrontation with Jerry Hayes, Conservative MP for Harlow and arch backbench rebel. It now seems that Channel 4 may provide the final solution to the whips' office.

It is proposed that Hayes, together with a journalist, an actor, and a merchant banker, should be marooned for a week on an island to see how good they are at coping with adversity, and whether or not the ability to survive in politics, Fleet Street, the City and on the stage in any way equates with the ability to deal with subsistence living.

Hayes will be missed by his younger colleagues who half hope they will be treated to a repeat performance of the recent cabaret when a Tory whip bawled him out in the committee corridor. Hayes had offended by reading extracts from an early letter from the Prime Minister supporting his current views, previously considered orthodox but now seen as rebellious.

A few older Members regretted that a whip when roused should behave like a Catterick drill sergeant rather than in the time honoured tradition of an angry adjutant addressing a recalcitrant junior officer.

BARRY FANTONI



'If only they held elections more often we'd be rich men'

After 10 years Mrs Kit van Tulcken has been priced out of the editorial chair at *Time-Life* in London to join Ralph Ingersoll in his new British venture. Friends, only minimally reassured that Ingersoll met her at a lunch at Inigo Jones in Covent Garden, now wait with some anxiety to see if he shares her enthusiasm for food and wine. For no amount of valetudinary champagne will compensate for the end of *Time-Life* lunches, where she entertained an unusual mixture of visiting Americans, authors, politicians and wine enthusiasts.

Ingersoll is still little known in Britain, but in America his privately-owned company has 35 daily regional papers and 200 weeklies. His first British acquisitions have been the *Birmingham Post* and *Mail* and the *Convent Telegraph*, together with their associated weeklies. In the British company Mrs van Tulcken is to be general manager, Gordon Brunton, formerly of *The Times*, will be chairman and Ralph Ingersoll president. They have apparently no plans to acquire, or start, a national daily.

● Gourmets who claim that all British food is becoming bland and standardized should welcome the initiative of a bluff Yorkshireman, David Harrison, whose Specialty Food Programme is setting up regional centres with names like Dorset Harvest, Devon Fare and Tastes of Somerset. The Norfolk centre is run by the crabbers of Cromer, because of the warm winter their crabs are already on the menu in West End restaurants and clubs.

When the Duke of Gloucester dined with the Thackeray Society at the Reform Club last week he spoke of his opposition to the tendency of city planners to replace the smaller buildings which still provide a friendly centre for most of our British towns with large modern blocks and shopping centres. Instead he advocated that this style of new building should be erected on the outskirts of the town, even though this would mean that people might have to travel outwards to shop rather than inwards, as now.

The speech made a considerable impression on an audience which can be critical and restive. Although the present Duke of Gloucester looks as academic as his father looked military and squirearchical, and whereas Prince Henry's favourite habit was the 10th Hussars Mess while the present Duke is more at home with intellectual colleagues, they share many of the same mannerisms, the same rather hesitant smile and the same sideways tilt of the head when talking. Thus strengthening the view that mannerisms may be as much inherited as learnt.

John Pitts, the industrialist appointed this week by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, to run the legal aid scheme, faces, in his own words, a "formidable" task. He arrives at a turbulent time for legal aid in England and Wales.

Not two miles down the road from where Pitts was making his first public appearance on Wednesday as chairman of the new Legal Aid Board, which takes over the running of legal aid from its present administrators, the Law Society, a number of MPs voiced fears about the future of the scheme: only a few days ago the Law Society said it was close to collapse.

John Morris QC, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that the Legal Aid Bill, which creates the new board, bore the marks of the "dead hand" of the Treasury. He welcomed the board but wondered if it would be independent of Government financial control. Similarly Alex Carlile, the SLD legal affairs spokesman, told members of the new board they would find themselves part of a paper tiger. For the first time legal aid - now costing £430 million a year - was to be cash-limited by the Treasury, he claimed; and when the Treasury got its hands on the scheme, "a little bit less will turn into fair amount less" and that, in turn,

would turn "into a lot less."

The Government vigorously denies any cost-cutting in present measures to bring legal aid under closer control. But MPs hit on two key matters of concern about the future of legal aid which Pitts will be forced to address: whether pursuit of the Government's aim for "efficiency, effectiveness and value for money" in legal aid will inevitably result in restrictions in the scope of the scheme and an inferior standard of service; and second, how far the board will act merely as a new arm of the Lord Chancellor's Department, and how much as a bulwark between Government and the public on one side and lawyers on the other.

There is no doubt that lawyers are genuinely worried about the scheme's future. Whether accepted by the Government or not, the Law Society's claim that 40 per cent of legal aid offices have dropped criminal legal aid work or are seriously thinking of doing so cannot simply be dismissed. The main reason

Frances Gibb on the fears of a Treasury squeeze

Legal aid in need of rescue?

cited was poor levels of pay. The survey was based on some 4,000 responses - 35 per cent of solicitors' offices doing legal aid - more than half of which volunteered additional comments critical of the current pay levels.

Responsibility for pay will remain with the Lord Chancellor. But the discontent means that Pitts has to grapple with a crisis of morale in the profession, described by one Law Society official as "rock bottom".

Then there is the question of eligibility for legal aid. When the scheme began 30 years ago, some 80 per cent of the population qualified for civil legal aid. The Lord Chancellor conceded last month that he has considerable reservations about this figure. A more accurate estimate, produced recently by a former official in the Lord Chancellor's Department, is that just over half the population is now eligible.

Against this background, Pitts has the job, as he sees it, of implementing Government pol-

icy on legal aid; to "deliver a high quality service with efficiency." Clearly his first task is to ensure the smooth transfer of the scheme from the Law Society to the board, which is expected to assume its executive responsibility during 1989. The appointment of his chief executive will be critical, along with other senior administrative posts: all but the top seven of the 1,500 staff now employed to run the scheme have been guaranteed their jobs. But after that, there are a number of important areas of work where the actions of Pitts and the board will to a large extent determine policy as well as affect it.

The Lord Chancellor has set the board the controversial task of "contracting out" to advice agencies areas of work now done by solicitors, such as social security, welfare and housing advice.

The Legal Aid Bill also contains powers for the board to assume other functions, including assessment of an applicant's means; decision on the grant of

criminal legal aid and the determination of lawyers' bills, now done by the courts.

Roger Smith, chairman of the Legal Action Group, believes there is a danger that the board will concentrate on such issues as "contracting out" legal advice work at the expense of more important matters. He says: "What about criminal legal aid which accounts for half the total bill? There is a plethora of kinds of legal aid all being administered in different ways with no one looking at the scheme from an overall policy point of view. This is what the board should be doing."

There is further concern that with half the board's members drawn from commerce and industry, the interests of the public will not be adequately considered. With uncertainty over the future of the current legal aid watchdog, the Lord Chancellor's Legal Aid Advisory Committee, it is all the more important that the new board sees its task as representing the interests of clients as well as the paymasters.

Pitts, who could undoubtedly play an important part in advising the Lord Chancellor on eligibility or morale over pay levels, says there is no question of siphoning funds. And he asserts his belief in the importance of the scheme to ensure access to justice to those who "could otherwise not afford it."

But the new board is subject to far stricter control by the Lord Chancellor than ever attached to the Law Society legal aid administration. Andrew Lockley, a senior Law Society official, says: "We wait to watch whether the board will flex its muscles independently of Government and look out for changes that on the face of it seem eminently reasonable but conceal cuts in public expenditure on legal services. As we look for an imaginative approach that does not always do things in the way they have always been done."

There seems little doubt that once Pitts is firmly in the chair, the Lord Chancellor will be able to say - as Lord Haleham once did - that legal aid is "cascading out of control."

Providing legal services in the most cost-effective way possible is how he sees the job. But for the scheme to retain the support of those who do the work, Pitts is also going to have to demonstrate a robust independence from Government control.

Roy Jenkins

Europe: Vive les différences

Europe may at last have harmonized the level of permitted noise from lawnmowers - very much in the British interest as it happens - but it has not harmonized the styles of government of its member countries.

Nor, probably, should it endeavour to do so. It has a degree of common culture, interest and geography. It needs to operate at a supranational level in a limited number of areas if it is to hold a candle to the rival economies of the United States and Japan. The fear that there will be too much federalism too soon is ludicrously misplaced. There is always more brake than accelerator about the Community, and signs of dynamism should always be encouraged.

Having said that, it is perfectly legitimate to recognize that the nations of Europe, some but not all of them ancient, have and will retain a degree of identity totally different from the states of America, or Australia, or the provinces of Canada, or the cantons of Switzerland, or other ingredients of federations or confederations. Europe has been through a melting-pot and its inhabitants, unlike those of the United States or their forebears, have never consciously turned their backs on their countries of origin.

This poses a delicate problem of balance, which Europe mostly solves uneasily. There is always great ambiguity about both the legitimacy and the effectiveness of any supranational power. Few in the governments of the member countries deny the need for the Community, but how much power most of them are prepared to allow it is a different matter.

The various governments have as a result of the Community been brought into much closer contact than they or their peoples were ever used to before, except perhaps in the trenches. But this has not resulted in governments and bureaucracies becoming like each other. To

visit the capitals of Europe in a high official capacity is, emphatically and happily, quite unlike making a tour around a series of Hilton or Sheraton hotels. The buildings, the service, the style, the food, the drink are far from being harmonized.

Looking back on a period of intensive dealings with the governments of Europe and frequent official visits to their capitals I find that certain rules or generalizations emerged, and that instructive comparisons can be made between the performance in different fields, some of them frivolous, some more serious, of the "big country" quartet - Germany, France, Britain, Italy - which inevitably dominate Community life.

Before coming to detailed comparisons between the four, however, I mention two exogenous points. First two, but only two, of the four are among the only three real *etats* of Europe. These are Britain and France, and the third is Spain. Germany and Italy are not so - not on account of defeat in 1945 but on account of lack of political unity before 1870. To be an *etat* there is need for several centuries of continuous tradition of government from the same capital over an area of significant size within roughly the same borders. This is not an abstract consideration. You feel the difference in this respect between Paris and Bonn or even between Madrid and Rome.

Second, there is a qualitative distinction between the style of "big" (on the European scale) governments and small ones, almost like that between a town and a village. And even the biggest small countries, like the biggest villages, are not halfway to being in the upper category. Thus in the Netherlands the prime minister himself opens the door to you at his official residence, which is not easily imaginable at the Elysée or the Bonn chancellery.

Equally the head of government of Denmark or Austria or



Portugal was content to meet the president of the European Commission on the tarmac at the airport, which even the most temporary and agreeable Italian prime minister would not think of doing. In the same way small country leaders are happy to entertain or be entertained in the public restaurants of their capitals. I have taken Gaston Thorn to dinner in Luxembourg and been given cream cakes by Chancellor Kreisky in the palm court of the Imperial Hotel, Vienna. I do not think that Mrs Thatcher or President Giscard would have been at ease in analogous circumstances.

So I come to my comparisons between the four, which, sacrificing subtle shading for succinctness, I do by means of arbitrarily arranging them in order of merit according to nine different tests. The first three tests relate to what might be called the "pomp of government" and should not be taken too seriously. The latter six relate to matters of greater substance.

First, which governments operate from the most splendid and impressive public buildings? The order here I give as (i) the French - although the Austrians would rival them if eligible for the competition, (ii) the Italians,

(iii) the British, and (iv) the Germans. Second, which governments provide the best food and drink at official meetings? My answer, which may surprise, is (i) the British (thanks entirely to the excellence of Government Hospitality wine supplies), (ii) the Italians, (iii) the French and (iv) the Germans.

My last and rather specialized "pomp of government" relates to the ruthlessness of police, motor cycle escorts, and true merit should perhaps be earned by coming last, which Europe's most powerful economy once again does. The answer is (i) the French, by a vast margin; they

kick small cars out of the way, (ii) the Italians, who have more "no hands" *brio* than deadlines, (iii) the British, who are quite respectable, and (iv) the Germans, who are now so law-abiding that they even stop at traffic lights and generally make one's progress slower than if they were not there.

I now move to the substance of government, which brings the Germans more into their own, and start with the test of agreeableness to deal with, particularly when a dispute arises. Here my answer is: (i) the Italians, (ii) the Germans, (iii) the British, and (iv) the French. Next, the government with the broadest European vision: (i) the Italians, (ii) the Germans, (iii) the French, (iv) the British.

If I then ask which government is the most effective in getting its own way in a dispute the answer may seem depressing for Italian virtue, for it would be (i) the French, (ii) the Germans, (iii) the British, (iv) the Italians. But this is balanced by the next test, which asks which government quietly does best for itself out of membership of the European Community and gets the answer of (i) the Italians, (ii) the French, (iii) the Germans and (iv) the British.

My penultimate test is which government has the best internal policy co-ordination, whether or not the policy co-ordinated is wise. Before *cobaltation* (and perhaps again after next Sunday) I would have put the French marginally ahead of the British, with the Italians third, and the Germans, rich enough to enjoy an American-style dissonance between different ministries and departments, a bad fourth. But perhaps this does not matter too much because if I conclude by asking which government, when it really (and rarely) chooses to exercise it, has the greatest world power and influence my last answer is (i) the Germans, (ii) the British, (iii) the French and (iv) the Italians.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Freedom rocked

I had hoped that the Prime Minister would by now have calmed herself and be regretting the tantrum she threw over the IBA's perfectly proper decision to allow Thames TV to transmit *Death on the Rock*. I should have known better. She is now threatening to impose a dangerous censorship of television and Sir Geoffrey Howe is attempting to bully the BBC.

Let us be clear on one thing. We may not have liked what *This Week* programme uncovered, or be attracted to some of its witnesses, but it was a legitimate journalistic enterprise. The shooting of the three unarmed IRA members in Gibraltar raised important issues of public policy that are the proper subject of debate among free citizens in a democratic society. They cannot and should not be confined to an inquest. Any campaigning journalist worth his salt, anyone with an eye for justice and an ear for truth, would want to address them, especially as Parliament, including its supine Opposition, had opted out and most of the media seemed unconcerned if not actually indifferent.

To suggest that this represents "trial by television" as the Prime Minister would have us believe, is nonsense. No one was put in the dock. No verdict was announced. Indeed, if anyone has prejudiced a fair and independent inquest it is Sir Geoffrey Howe himself with his initial and misleading statement to the Commons. If it is all right for him to give his highly tendentious version of the facts then it is equally permissible for others to seek to verify them. We have not yet reached the stage

when what a foreign secretary says is law; nor to the point where a prime minister's words are beyond challenge.

If the film makers broke the law then they should be prosecuted. But no one suggests that they did. The Government was unable to obtain an injunction to prevent the film being transmitted and even Mrs Thatcher has yet moved to commit them for contempt of court. All they can be accused of is not complying with Mrs Thatcher's *diktat*, or bad taste. Neither is, as yet, an offence. Instead of being pilloried for setting out the truth as they saw it, the IBA and Lord Thomson should be congratulated for refusing to be intimidated by a government used to getting its way.

And on the actual issue of "trial by television", why is it that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey are so selective? Why did they not snuff their fingers and stamp their feet when John Stalker was being crucified, when his associate and friend was being vilified, and when the killings that John Stalker was investigating were being publicly dissected by everyone, including politicians? I've never once seen the Prime Minister in a huff when the powerless were being "tried" by the media. She hasn't even flinched her skirt at the trial-by-smeat of the character of Carmen Proetta.

Someone brave needs to remind Mrs Thatcher why she sent the Task Force to the Falklands. She should be told that we live in a free society, with a free press, and that we are independent men and women capable of distinguishing between right and wrong and making up our own

minds. She should be informed, gently but firmly, that what makes our battle against the IRA, other terrorists, and all bullies worthwhile, whatever it costs, is adherence to civilized standards and to decent values. It ought to be pointed out to her that the measure of our strength is the way we have resolutely maintained these standards and values in the face of the greatest adversity and in the most difficult circumstances.

"Trial by television" may well, as the Prime Minister asserts, undermine "democratic freedom", though we haven't actually got much evidence of it so far and it's usually commended when uncovering abuse at a mental hospital or old people's home. In any case, far more important, as the Prime Minister knows, is that the "freedom of people depends on the rule of law". So it does. It's a pity that she doesn't actually understand what that concept involves.

She should look at her *Dicer*. Then she would realize that no one, no foreign secretary, no prime minister, not even Mrs Thatcher in high dudgeon, is above the law. No one in this country can dictate who can investigate what, where and when so long as they remain within the law. As she points out, "those who do rely on freedom must have the duty and responsibility and not try to substitute their own system for it". Quite so. But on this occasion it is she who represents the threat and the IBA the defender. Let's hope that Lord Thomson's defiance brings the message home that in this country we rule by law, not *diktat* or tantrum.

SCIENCE REPORT

Deep-sea change

The bizarre animals living around volcanic vents on the ocean floor may teach us more about evolution than the familiar animals of field and forest, according to a new study published in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

Isolated animal communities on the sea bed are so remote from one another and from most external influences that they are ideal working models for testing ideas about how animals disperse and form new species.

The zoology of the abyss has developed rapidly since the discovery in the late 1970s of hydrothermal vents in rocks on the ocean floor, thousands of feet deep from which plumes of hot water laden with heavy metals and sulphur emerge. The surprise discovery of communities of marine animals near the vents led to repeated discoveries of new species. There is a large and growing literature on these marine animals.

Verena Tunnicliffe of the University of Victoria in British Columbia now claims fresh insights into evolutionary ecology by comparing different seafloor communities.

The vent faunas cluster around fissures and faults in the sea floor associated with submarine mid-ocean ridges from which new rock wells up from within the Earth to form a new ocean floor.

Although the vent faunas live in conditions unknown elsewhere, they are unaffected by changes in sea level or



Richard Leighton

climate that more directly affect land animals. One result is that each vent has its own assortment of animals. What little dispersal there is follows the lines of mid-ocean ridges, where vents are more common than elsewhere.

Tunnicliffe has in particular compared vent faunas from the Juan de Fuca ridge system, just off the west coast of Canada, with the East Pacific Rise, to the west of Central America. The North American continent intervened from the east some 35 million years ago, overlying a pre-existing ridge and cutting it in two.

Tunnicliffe says that vent animals from the shorter Juan de Fuca ridge are different from, but less diverse than, those from the East Pacific Rise - a direct consequence of the separation of the ridge into two unequal parts.

The unique feature of abyssal ecosystems, says Tony Rice of the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, is that their energy comes from the use by bacteria of sulphur compounds from the vents, rather than the trapping of sunlight by green plants. As a result the vents support an assortment of creatures different from any others on the planet.

The strangest residents are wormlike animals called Vestimentiferans, six feet long, which have been accorded the zoological status of phylum, on the same level as other major groups such as echinoderms or annelids. There are only 30 or so recognized phyla in the zoological record.

Rice is particularly interested in some of the crabs found in the Pacific vents, which were unknown previously. At depths below 6,000ft. One surprise is that the abyss crabs look more like freshwater species than any other marine species of crabs. Because of its great water pressure, total darkness and inaccessibility, the deep ocean floor is as exciting to modern zoologists as the African jungles were two centuries ago. deep sea exploration, but Rice says that high costs and other priorities have meant that research to the select few with access to research submarines, chiefly in France, Japan and the United States.

HENRY GEE



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

Mrs Thatcher's Irish policy

NO TIME FOR TURNING

It is no longer reasonable to hope that any single act of IRA violence will harden the response of this nation (or that of its neighbours) to the true threat of terrorism. The attempt to assassinate half the Cabinet at Brighton did not. Nor did the desecration of Remembrance Day at Enniskillen. Nor will the cowardly murders of off-duty airmen.

It is possible, however, that the chain of actions which began with the Gibraltar shootings and continues with the argument over the television investigations of them may end with more success. For questions have been raised which rise above the numbing impact of violent death. They encompass the freedoms which a free country gives its citizens; the right means for such a country to protect itself against threats to its being; the rights and duties of journalists acting inside the law; and the rights of government agents to act outside of it.

Governments should pay heed to the mood of public debate. When the Government is asked whether its tactics and strategy are sufficient to deal with the IRA, it must have an answer and an explanation.

This Government — indeed any government committed to the safety and territorial integrity of the United Kingdom — knows that it has always to reconcile two purposes which are potentially in conflict. It must work for the permanent defeat of terrorism; at the same time it must preserve support for the constitutional link between Northern Ireland and Britain.

National interest in the rule of law

Fewer than one voter in three on the mainland think that Northern Ireland should remain inside the UK. The remainder are distributed between those who do not know, those who advocate a united Ireland and those who say that it should become independent. Those journalists, recently criticised by ministers for sympathy to the aims (if not the means) of the IRA, may be closer to this mood of indifference than the Government likes to think.

That does not, however, justify everything in the television treatment of the Gibraltar shootings. The terrorist methods of the IRA and their foreign allies threatens the fundamentals of democracy. The suppression of the IRA is an interest not merely of a particular government, nor merely of the state. It is an interest of the society as a whole; here, journalists, television executives, and heads of regulatory bodies, share common obligations with their fellow citizens.

One of those obligations is to preserve the property applied rule of law. In that we all have an interest. Another is to act in cognisance of any other national interest at stake.

A coroner's inquiry in Gibraltar is part of the rule of law. Journalists inquiring — quite legitimately — into the circumstances of the shooting of the three terrorists in March have a duty to present their findings with due consideration of the risk of prejudice to the inquest.

Those responsible for publishing their discoveries must make their decisions by criteria which go further than the precise application of the law of contempt. It is not necessary to accept that any national interest should always be the overwhelming criterion in such decisions, nor that the Government should be the sole judge of where that interest lies.

The attractions of internment

We simply do not think that if serious consideration of the national interest at stake had taken place, the decisions to broadcast the interviews with witnesses would have been made. In particular, the powerful impact of the broadcasting medium was insufficiently taken into account.

This row, however, raises questions well beyond that of who judges the journalists. It has given opponents of the Government's Northern Irish policy a fresh opportunity for general criticism. Some of these would endorse a "shoot-to-kill" policy of the kind which some journalists clearly believe was in operation in Gibraltar. They would want such a policy to be prosecuted either covertly or through overt signals to the terrorists that they were at open war. They want the IRA to be fought with the same application of the national will as Hitler was.

These views have in common the minimum presumption that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has been a failure and that it is time for the security forces to take a new, unilateral hard line against the IRA. This would at least mean internment of known IRA activists.

Solicitors' standards

From Mr John O'Donnell

Sir, In the article on the Lord Chancellor (April 5), Lord Mackay of Clashfern is quoted as being dismissive of arguments which suggest that standard fees will lead to a lower level of service under criminal legal aid. He points out that attempts by the profession to make the work fit the level of fees would be an adverse observation of their professionalism.

Members of the public must understand that the Lord Chancellor wears two hats in this argument.

He expresses the concern of most of the profession in wishing to see standards maintained and, yet, as a member of the Government, actively pursues a policy designed to drive more practitioners away from providing this vital public service.

Those who do not tailor the work according to the level of fees

will either go out of business or withdraw from this area of advice entirely, as a number have already done. This is certainly not in the interest of the public.

It is interesting to note that when criminal legal aid rates have recently been raised by just over 5 per cent although overheads have risen by substantially more, the salaries for Crown Prosecutors are to be increased by up to 12 per cent.

The Government has taken a long time to recognise the value of professional training and commitment amongst those whose choice it is to prosecute and those of us in the "private" sector now await a similar response to those whose choice it is to defend.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN O'DONNELL,
Lee, Brailford & Co.,
1 Cross Street,
Freston,
Lancashire.
April 19.

reasoning attractive to politicians and public. Internment would certainly work better in the late 1980s than it ever did in the early 1970s: better intelligence and longer experience would concentrate it on the right people. More aggressive tactics would end the paradoxes produced by a society apparently condoning the existence of known terrorists in its midst, and even subsidising them and their supporters through the housing and benefits systems.

Most of these supposed gains are illusions, however. The Government, which knows this to be true, has been feeble and faint-hearted in saying this. The state of the argument now gives ministers — and especially the Prime Minister — the opportunity to address its opponents and to go back on the offensive.

There is a curiosity in the argument from the right wing critics of Mrs Thatcher's Irish policy. A Prime Minister who has stuck tenaciously to her policies against some of the most ferocious opposition mustered in post-war Britain is being asked to execute a humiliating reverse. The abandonment of the Agreement and the switch to a "tougher" policy would release some pent-up frustration upon terrorists who richly deserve it. But the IRA would know — and quickly make it known — that it had won one of the largest symbolic victories of its campaign. The change of policy would concede to the IRA the status of a military enemy, thus wiping away every advantage gained from the Government's strength of mind during the hunger strikes of 1981, which were undertaken to establish that very principle.

Moreover, internment would have to be indefinite. Therefore, it would inevitably have to be applied unilaterally. No equivalent action would be taken by the Republic in such circumstances.

There would be other losses. The IRA would present this turn of policy as another cruel turn in the endless cycle of British oppression; the dollars would flow from the Irish-Americans of the United States. The multi-national cooperation essential to stemming that flow would be weakened, even denied.

An undreamt of aid to the IRA

As a recruiting force for an IRA of the future it would be many times more powerful than any incentives which present IRA leaders can dream of. Even the most overt and committed "declaration of war" against the IRA might fail to be sufficiently "surgical". In their long rear-guard campaign, those terrorists remaining could impose disorder and death on a vast scale.

It does not take much imagination to guess the effect of such scenes on mainland public opinion. The separation of Britain and Northern Ireland would be more likely.

There is, in truth, no policy in Ireland which cannot be made to look like a failure if judgement is entered early enough. The Prime Minister should find enough confidence in her own policy to rebut the oddly faint-hearted advice which is telling her to abandon the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The Agreement is not a policy in itself, but an instrument. As such, it is well designed for the pursuit of the Government's fundamental aims: the restoration of democratic politics free from fear and the maintenance of the constitutional allegiance of the majority.

Indeed, many critics of the Agreement concede in the small print at the foot of their complaints that, for all its disadvantages, it should not be done away with in its entirety. Particularly inside Northern Ireland, they recognise the potent symbolic importance that such a surrender would have.

The Government has recently given a fresh series of moves to squeeze the IRA and Sinn Féin. The proposal for a political oath on local councils ought to be revived. Community funds open to misuse are rightly being cut off. It is now recognised that there is far greater scope for bureaucratic and financial pursuit of terrorism. If terrorists are being allowed to go free by due process of law, the law needs improvement. Many little-publicized ideas lie on the table waiting to be taken up and driven forward from the top.

The heart of this policy is a drive to isolate terrorists both from the community (by imprisoning them after trial) and to deny them their sources of emotional and material support without which they cannot survive. During the late 1970s and 1980s, the trend has been of declining violence. Long though the reach of the IRA's ambition is, it has been suppressed before and can be again.

Internment, on both sides of the border may be an appropriate weapon during the final phase of the struggle against the IRA. The premature use of such "endgame" tactics would rebound upon those who play them — and with even more tragic results than those which now so horrify the nation.

Home front memorial

From Mr T. C. Barker

Sir, Mr Tony Baldry, MP (April 27) regrets the absence of a memorial to those who died in Britain on the home front during the last war, and attributes this to "collective national amnesia".

The Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle has, since 1946, contained among its rolls of honour one to the memory of civilians killed in Scotland during the world war, 1939-45.

Its 107 pages are periodically reprinted to accommodate the additional information provided by the visiting public; and its leather binding was renewed only last week, the original having been worn bare by the number of visitors turning its pages.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. BARKER,
(Secretary to the trustees),
Scottish National War Memorial,
The Castle,
Edinburgh.

Moral dilemmas and rule of law

From Mr D. B. Taylor

Sir, Conor Cruise O'Brien ("Taking out the terrorists", May 3) is to be profoundly congratulated on his scrutiny of the idea that the rule of the law is some kind of absolute moral principle which must be universally applied, regardless of the consequences. And his misgivings don't apply solely to terrorism. It could well be argued that our streets have become unsafe and our houses are daily becoming more so largely because those whose duty it is to protect them seem willing to accept any degree of physical defeat so long as at the end of the day — in their own estimation — they retain the moral victory.

The truth is that by itself the moral victory is worthless. If the law fails to protect those who rely on it for protection, whom indeed it tries to compel to rely on it, it has failed not simply its most important task; it has failed in its only task. Shouldn't we remind ourselves of the scripture which advises (Proverbs xvi, 4-5):

Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.
Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Doesn't our present predicament arise from our being too much impressed by the first verse and too little by the second?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TAYLOR,
7 Basil Mansions,
Bevil Street, SW3.
May 3.

From Mr R. Edey
Sir, Mrs Thatcher is right to point out that democracy depends upon the rule of law. The Minister of Defence quite rightly points out that the killing of the three airmen was outside the law. Terrorists operate outside the law and do not observe recognised standards of civilised behaviour. That is why their murders are always so diabolical and cowardly.

Security forces must never come down to their level. If they have terrorists under surveillance and can arrest them, they must always do so, thereby ensuring that they are brought to trial. Summary execution of terrorists outside the law is murder, and those found guilty of such conduct must stand trial.

I have yet to hear that investigations have been carried out into the Gibraltar shootings with a view to prosecution of those who killed the three terrorists. If the rule of law is to be maintained, such investigation is of paramount importance. If it was decided to prosecute, the trial would have to take place prior to the inquest.

The holding of an inquest would gravely prejudice the subsequent criminal trial. For the Government to rely on an inquest to ascertain whether or not a crime has been committed is entirely inappropriate. It is not the function of a coroner to ascertain the

culpability for commission of crime. His duty is merely to ascertain the cause of death.

If prosecution is not to ensue, the facts should be established by a judicial enquiry headed by a High Court judge. The proper maintenance of the rule of law by security forces, including vindication of their conduct if appropriate, has to be established. This can only be done by prosecution or proper judicial enquiry.

Yours faithfully,
R. EDEY,
Lower Flat,
Field House North,
West Street,
Harrow, Middlesex.
May 3.

From Mr James Wadsworth
Sir, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (May 4) describes a concern for the rule of law as a facetious justification for the *This Week* programme on the Gibraltar shootings. His concern for the rule of law is such that he tells you that the IBA has been weighed in the balance and found guilty. Summary justice, indeed.

Respect for the rule of law entails respect for the right to broadcast a programme which Mr Fairbairn will know infringed no law whatsoever and respect for the right of any citizen to seek a judicial enquiry into the deliberate taking of human life (even that of a terrorist) by any person (even a soldier).

For those in government respect for the rule of law should include a willingness to justify such events not by bombastic letters to you but by the production and testing of all relevant evidence under such conditions as Mr Fairbairn himself describes.

What is truly facetious is to suggest that the proper questions for such an enquiry are merely those that will fall to be decided in the Gibraltar inquest.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WADSWORTH,
The Lodge,
Lomb,
Nr. Snow-on-the-Wold,
Gloucestershire.
May 4.

From Dr C. B. Goodhart
Sir, In view of the interest aroused by the "Death on the Rock" programme, it might be a good idea for Thames Television to produce another programme in which Lord Thomson, Mr Roger Bolton, and others concerned could be cross-examined by an experienced interviewer on the steps they took to ensure that their original programme gave a properly balanced picture, and to inquire into the reliability of their eye-witnesses to these events.

Even if that led to no definite conclusions, it would make "good television", which is the main thing.

Yours etc.
C. B. GOODHART,
Conville and Caius College,
Cambridge.
May 3.

Ulster devolution

From Mr Victor Galloway

Sir, Mr T. E. Uley ("Giving the IRA the initiative", April 12) belied the aims of the Campaign for a Devolved Parliament (CDP). Far from giving the initiative to the IRA, the CDP grabs it from them.

We do not, unlike Mr Uley, regard Unionists allowing nationalists in Northern Ireland a share in power and responsibility as being a "supreme sacrifice" on their part. Nor do we describe the ending of the Anglo-Irish Agreement as a "supreme sacrifice" for the minority community, the vast majority of which, like the majority community, recognises that neither Catholics nor Protestants have benefited from the failed Accord. Partnership government is not merely an escape route from the Agreement but is a singularly apt in dealing with the problem of a divided society and building peace, stability and reconciliation which will benefit all.

Mr Uley attempts to imply that one of the strongest motivations of the CDP is to see Sinn Féin participating in government in Northern Ireland in exchange for a

truce. This is not so; only those persons agreeing to respect and abide by the proposed written Constitution and satisfying their fellow representatives that they opposed terrorism would be eligible for office.

An agreed form of government would stave the IRA of the division which helps feed it and a resolute security policy with cross-community backing could finish them as a serious threat to our people. Mr Uley is wrong to imply that all responsibility for security would be devolved to Northern Ireland; nor, if the Campaign is successful, is it likely to lead to a Protestant-run independent Ulster. Independence, like a United Ireland, could come about only if there was cross-community support for such change.

The CDP believes its proposals offer real hope of ending the miserable political failures of the last two decades.

Yours etc.
VICTOR GALLOWAY,
Campaign for a Devolved Parliament,
PO Box 442,
Belfast, Northern Ireland.
May 4.

Presidential posers

From Mr J. W. Wood

Sir, It is a pity when as astute an observer as Conor Cruise O'Brien drifts from fact to hope, ("Dukakis for President", April 27).

The headline is the hope. But the analysis, that Bush will have to "stand on the record of the Republican Administration", does not lead to O'Brien's wishful conclusion that, therefore, he will be defeated. Quite the reverse.

The US economy is in the 66th month of boom. It has created 15 million jobs in eight years. Growth in the last quarter of last year was over 4 per cent. Interest rates have fallen from 21 per cent to between 7 per cent and 8 per cent. Inflation is minimal.

Abroad, relations with the Soviet Union have reached a

point of hope and stability with the INF treaty and the Soviet pull-back from Afghanistan, both seen as true foreign-policy successes. Americans share with others a liking for prosperity, security, and for winning. Running on this record is no burden.

Mr Dukakis is a competent, likeable man with limited experience and none in foreign affairs. Mr Bush is a competent, likeable man with exceptional experience, particularly in foreign affairs. Thoughtful friends abroad, no matter how passionate, should carefully consider where their best interests lie.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN W. WOOD (Chairman,
Republicans Abroad (UK)),
Kent House,
Market Place, W1,
April 27.

Shrinking assets

From Miss Hermione Waterfield

Sir, Whilst I can believe that your reader (April 30) was not aware of the market in shrunken heads, I am surprised that he is astonished to hear of it. Shrunken heads have been sold for at least 100 years, and demand exceeded supply by the 1930s, as witnessed by a fake on display in the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford, made before 1936.

A number of heads of varying quality have been offered in the salerooms during the past 20

years, and to my knowledge the highest price yet paid is £6,132 for a particularly fine head, with sumptuously long earrings of beetle-wing cases (indicating that a series of feasts, or a particularly lavish feast, was given for it, thus enhancing the prestige of the owner) from the Hooper collection, Christie's, November, 1976.

Yours truly,
HERMIONE WATERFIELD,
Director,
Tribal Art Department,
Christie's South Kensington,
85 Old Brompton Road, SW7.
May 3.

Rowntree in a free market

From Mr R. S. Rowntree

Sir, Your not unsympathetic leading article of April 28 suggested that there was unlikely to be any means of avoiding a Swiss takeover of Rowntree plc. As a great-nephew of the company's founder, though with no involvement in its management, I have pondered long and carefully on this conclusion.

I have no doubt that the company was correct in its earlier decision to sever the potential protection of the dominant shareholdings of the Joseph Rowntree trusts. Without such action it could never have built up the necessary capital resources for the development of those world brands that are the hallmark of its success. Yet of course the outcome has been to lay the company open to a takeover without the same hope of positive shareholder assistance that saved it from a previous attempt by the American General Foods Company.

Given the prevailing current wisdom of the inviolability of the free market, there is surely no way in which a responsible bid from the EEC or many other countries could be prevented on other than strictly commercial or monopoly considerations.

Switzerland is in many respects an ideal example to the world; but it has at least one serious blemish on its record of achievement and that is its penchant for protecting its commercial interests by regulation and excessive secrecy.

Thus, while Rowntree and

Suchard are approximately similar in size, Suchard is free to compete for control of the British company while being protected by Swiss law from a bid by Rowntree.

This situation appears so manifestly unfair that it is not surprising that all shades of political opinion are uniting in the view that any Swiss bid for Rowntree requires the judgement of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Last week's annual general meeting of Rowntree plc demonstrated beyond doubt the determination of its individual small shareholders to resist the temptation to use the opportunity of the Nestlé's bid for a quick profit. The large institutional shareholders of necessity have wider responsibilities to consider. But surely none would wish to resist the principle that a market can only be free if it operates on a basis of absolute fairness to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingthorpe House,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire.
May 2.



ON THIS DAY

MAY 6 1943

The professed desire of the Soviet Government to see a strong and independent Poland after the war was expressed by Stalin in a letter to *The Times* Correspondent in Moscow, Ralph Parker (1907-64). Stalin also suggested that a Soviet-Polish alliance might be formed.

RUSSIA AND POLAND

MARSHAL STALIN'S STATEMENT TO "THE TIMES"

From Our Special Correspondent

MOSCOW, May 5

...M. Stalin's letter, dated May 4, the text of which is printed below, was sent in reply to two questions on Polish-Soviet relations which had been submitted to the Kremlin on the previous day. The officially authorized English translation is as follows:

On May 3 I received your two questions concerning Polish-Soviet relations. Here are my answers.

(1) Question: Does the Government of the U.S.S.R. desire to see a strong and independent Poland after the defeat of Hitler's Germany? — Answer: Unquestionably, it does.

(2) Question: On what foundations is it your opinion that the relations between Poland and the U.S.S.R. should be based after the war? Answer: Upon the basis of solid good neighbourly relations and mutual respect, or, should the Polish people so desire, on the basis of an alliance providing for mutual assistance against the Germans as the chief enemies of the Soviet Union and Poland — With respect,
J. STALIN.

The original Russian text, on a single sheet of white paper, bore M. Stalin's signature in bright green crayon.

In this important statement about the principles of post-war European settlement, M. Stalin would seem to have made a substantial advance towards the improvement of Polish-Soviet relations. The terse, categorical reply to the first question constitutes a statement that the pledge of the Soviet Government's desire to see a strong and independent Poland, which was given in December, 1941, by M. Stalin to General Sikorski, is still the cornerstone of Soviet-Polish relations. On that assurance it should be possible to rebuild the bridge between the Soviet and the Polish Prime Ministers. "Strong and independent" are words about the meaning of which there can be little or no ambiguity.

An alliance for mutual assistance against the Germans, which M. Stalin's reply suggests, would be a natural development from the good neighbourly relations established between the two countries after the defeat of the common enemy, but it is one which, he emphasizes, could only be achieved if it should accord with Polish popular desire. It would meet the understandable determination of the Russians to organize a zone of security on the west against the possibility of a recurrence of the German menace. But such an organization for self-defence between independent sovereign States is, in M. Stalin's view, perfectly reconcilable with good neighbourliness and with mutual respect between partners.

The attitude of the Soviet Union towards the allies' post-war plans for Europe, it is safe to assume, will in the main depend on the measure of agreement that can be reached before hostilities close, between all the interested parties, about that eastern European zone which lies between Russia and that German people and State which, in M. Stalin's words, will "live on". For the last thing that the Soviet Union is likely to desire is a state of confusion and enfeeblement in these vital areas during the years when she is engaged on the arduous task of reconstructing her own liberated regions of the west.

Student poverty

From Mr Carlos de Serpe-Pimentel

Sir, Further to the letter from Professor G. V. R. Born, FRS, and others (April 27) highlighting the effect of the recent social security reforms, particularly in the area of housing benefit on postgraduate science students, I am a law undergraduate at Kingston Polytechnic with a weekly income of approximately £55. I pay £136 per month for a box-room in a small house.

Prior to April 4, 1988, my housing benefit allowance amounted to £8.76 per week. This has since been cut by exactly 75 per cent to £2.19 per week, which has resulted in my being worse off by about £6.50 a week. While this may appear to many an insignificant amount, it means that I must allocate 12 per cent more of my weekly income for rent alone.

I am as a result left with £23 per week, which presumably is intended to suffice for expenditure on textbooks, transport, clothing and leisure pursuits, not to mention food!

Like a number of my colleagues, I intend to become a practising lawyer which entails at least another year of studying in order to obtain a professional qualification and in my case involves a year in London studying for Bar Finals. The prospect of having to continue on such a low income, without additional sources of assistance like housing benefit, means that many undergraduates will think twice before embarking upon professional qualifications and may opt for a lower long-term but more immediate source of income in order to survive.

Yours faithfully,
CARLOS DE SERPE-PIMENTEL,
2 Dumbleton Close,
Norbiton,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
April 27.

Going to ballot

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Surely when negotiations between employers and employees have broken down, and a trade union proposes to organize or support lawful industrial action on the part of any of its members, all such members should be entitled to know the terms of the last offer and the nature of the industrial action proposed: this for majority decision by secret ballot?

No amendment to this effect was tabled during the passage of the Employment Bill. The form and substance of this proposal have not been considered by either House.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
1 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
May 1.

To wit — to whom?

From Mr H. G. Conway

Sir, This morning's copy (May 3) contains three whole-page advertisements (costing not doubt a pretty penny) saying, "You know who to go to... Is this now acceptable English? Is the answer 'to he or she...?'"

Yours truly,
H. G. CONWAY,
33 Sussex Square,
Hyde Park, W2.
May 3.

Merrier then?

From Mr J. W. West

Sir, On May Day, 1665, Samuel Pepys wrote:

To Westminster, on the way meeting many milkmaids with their garlands upon their heads, dancing with a fiddler before them.

Why is May Day so often so dull nowadays?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. WEST,
6 Weydown Court,
Weydown Road,
Haslemere, Surrey.
May 1.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Old ladies of the sea

If London is full of short stories walking around hand in hand, as one of Martin Amis's protagonists observes, Eastbourne is stiff with monologues. *40 Minutes: Separate Tables* (BBC2) gave some of them their head.

The resort's three-star Burlington Hotel is soon to suffer the advent of Conference Man, with his pressing need for gold-plated taps and "banqueting facilities". The low-season "permanent residents" have already been packed off to the attic by the studiously unattractive general manager.

Like an archaeological rescue operation in advance of the bulldozers, John Pym's film commemorates a generation well fitted to keep smiling through. Wearing full slap and surrounded by regulation knick-knacks, the aged widows gamely played up to the producer's expectations, with some wonderfully starchy results.

One of the old dears was shown listening to the Stock Market crash on her bedside radio ("I'll be bankrupt," she smiled); another co-operated by pretending to be on the telephone when the hotel's maintenance man just happened to drop in for the purpose of wheeling out her Edwardian-looking safe. This lady might easily have carried the programme on her own.

Although Pym's own self is adept at flirtation, there was something rather dutiful about the way he balanced his report by visiting other hotels along the sea front.

Claiming an audience of 322 million even before transmission, *Bodymatters Special* (BBC1) did its bit for Europe Against Cancer Week.

Purple balloons bullied their way into a wall of pink ones to simulate cancer cells invading healthy ones, a giant fruit machine mimicked the hazards of tobacco, and a token Action Against Cancer family quietly affirmed that they have given up practically everything except breathing.

The kiddy-props hinted at the expected age-span of the watching millions; of their attention-span, one cannot speak.

I feel that room should have been found for the London cab-driver who once informed me with terminal seriousness that cancer is communicable through glass.

Martin Cropper

Pop goes the gospel

Steve Turner watches Whitney Houston, who is now appearing in concert at Wembley, and wonders if she has grown too popular for her own good

ROCK

Whitney Houston is a marketing department's dream. She is a black singer who has enough white blood to appeal across the racial divide. She can claim a down-home gospel heritage but looks the epitome of Eighties yuppie affluence. You can dance to her but you can also play her inoffensively in the background. At 24, she is a hit with the pre-teens, the over-forties and the generations in between.

That is why, with only two albums to her name, she has already established sales of more than 20 million, has broken the previous record for consecutive number one singles (seven, to the six established by the Beatles and the Bee Gees) and has won awards not only in the pop and soul categories but in rhythm and blues and rock. Whitney, in 1988, is everywhere.

Yet it is precisely the ease of this exemplary crossover career that worries her critics. They believe that in order to please so many she has had to sell her soul for a blander strain of pop. Some have even gone so far as to murmur about her middle-class upbringing in New Jersey, as though black singers really should aspire only towards a poverty that would provide the requisite anguish for their art.

Judging by the show, almost two hours long, that she is presenting at Wembley Arena over nine days, Whitney Houston has indeed made too many concessions to Broadway and Hollywood. At her greatest, she is a riveting soul singer working hard at the emotional life of songs such as "The Greatest Love of All", but at her most ordinary she is the nightclub singer of the year, twirling her mermaid-like rear along with four grinning dancers in a Pepsi Cola world where young people of all colours have a good time.

Shimmering beneath the battery of multi-coloured overhead lights in a tight fitting sequined dress, she stalked the stage (built where the boxing ring is normally situated, to allow all-round vision) while her musicians, all in evening dress, stayed in the designated orchestra area unless invited to strut their stuff along with the star.

She looked devastatingly beautiful and, although shunning the overt raunchiness of Tina Turner, knows how to use her sexuality in concert with discreet shakes of the body, flicks of the skirt and swings of the legs.

Calling for a response from the audience and receiving only a few muted yells, the woman who claims never to have had a steady boyfriend said, with a knowing grin: "Hey, give me something I can feel."

That was the shortcoming of her performance, half of which consisted of her number one hits: she did not give the audience something that we could feel. She gave us songs we could recognize, hum, and appreciate, yet she seemed restrained by the hit-song format and the glitzy end-of-the-

pier choreography. Spontaneity, in such a rigorously structured act, was out of the question.

Significantly, it was only when she returned to her roots that the show broke free of the confines of polished pop and started to move rather than simply soothe the audience. The simple church piano chords of "Me" and "I Believe", gospel songs once recorded by her mother, Cissy Houston, and the unrestrained vocal performances that accompanied them were far more electrifying than the thudding bass synthesizer on the familiar greatest hits.

The gospel songs were immediately followed by two songs made popular by Aretha Franklin, "Natural Woman" and "You Send Me". "I've admired her for so long," she said, by way of introduction, "and I've had the fortune of knowing her since I was a little girl." Again passion took precedence over sequenced performance as she paid tribute.

The essence of soul is utter commitment to the content of the song rather than the social standing of the singer. Whitney Houston certainly displays the capability, but seems to lack the accompanying commitment, without which such music simply becomes a catalogue of techniques borrowed from the church in order to succeed in the marketplace.

She is really more at home with the unadorned gospel which corresponds with her own personal beliefs rather than with the fake emotions of "Love is a Contact Sport" and "So Emotional".

She is undoubtedly a great pop singer, and there is absolutely no disgrace in purveying pop. But she could do so much more, and it is tempting to believe that she herself would secretly like to break the bounds of mass-market music. What will it profit a woman if she gains the whole world and loses her soul?



Houston calling: Whitney shimmered underneath the battery of multi-coloured lights

CONCERT

Fanfare for a musical master

Glock Birthday Concert
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sir William Glock's eightieth birthday on Tuesday was fittingly marked with a whole day on Radio 3 celebrating the range of his enthusiasms, from Haydn to Simon Holt, and the acuteness of his patronage, which led him at the BBC in the 1960s to foster talents as various as those of Hans Keller and Pierre Boulez.

The party continued on the South Bank on Wednesday, with Boulez bringing a hand-picked team from Paris to perform *Le Marteau sans maître*, exactly as he did in 1957 for one of Glock's ICA concerts.

Well, not quite exactly. In 31 years the work has become much slower, much smoother as far as the dynamics are concerned, and altogether more amply lyrical.

This brings great benefits to the fifth, sixth and last movements, especially: the fifth here became a quite delectable song with flute, viola and guitar, something to set beside a Machaut ballade (particularly if one wanted to pay homage to Glock's brilliantly diverse radio programming), while in the sixth, the admirable soloist Elizabeth Laurence beautifully matched her voice to the flute and the viola.

Also on the programme was a performance of Stravinsky's concerto for two pianos, where Peter Donohoe and Martin Roscoe gradually moved their Lisztian bravura into pianola-roll exactitude, and a strong, urgent account of Britwistle's *Secret Theatre* from the London Sinfonietta under Elgar Howarth.

Britwistle also provided an exceptionally fine birthday card in his lush but tightly severe setting of *An die Musik* for high soprano (the utterly wonderful Sarah Leonard) and ensemble.

Paul Griffiths

LONDON FESTIVAL OF BALLET

24th-25th May: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
30th May: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
31st May: ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
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FRIDAY PAGE

Tales of experience

Why has Monica Dickens (73 next week) decided to go on a survival course? She told Libby Purves

It is a wonderful thing to be adaptable. In youth, Monica Dickens moved from her debutante life into a series of jobs as a cook-general, a nurse, and a local newspaper reporter, and wrote three classic books about her experiences. Then she turned to fiction; at 35 she married an American and moved to a new life on Cape Cod, returning to a series of jobs to research each novel. In her sixties, she researched the Samaritans for a book called *The Listeners*, and was so moved by the experience that she started up the organization in America. Widowed at 70, with her Samaritans well established, she decided to come home to a cottage in Berkshire.

It is called Lavender Cottage, but its occupant is not yet regressing into a nostalgic rural dream. When I caught up with her, she was off to play war games for the weekend in a wood, and preparing to go on a survival skills course. "I'm writing a novel about a loner — not a Michael Ryan figure exactly, because he isn't violent, but he's involved in all this survivalism and games like *Dungeons and Dragons*. Fascinating. I wanted to research it because it is very much something that is happening now."

Monica Dickens is very keen on living in the present. Returning to England after 35 years, anyone might be forgiven for noticing a few changes for the worse, but she refuses to see them "because that's a sure way to get old. Mind you, traffic is bad, but so it is all around the world. And the dirt means that London isn't lovely any more. I'm afraid the Tottenham Court Road has rather lost its charm."

On the whole, she finds England vastly improved. "English people make friends more quickly, and open up more than they used to. I've just had a fabulous conversation with a strange bishop in the lobby here [the BBC, where we had made our rendezvous]. The class structure is almost gone; I think this country is much more democratic now than America. Down in Berkshire I do meet some upper-class people with those extraor-



Cottage industry: Monica Dickens finds England 'vastly improved'

'English people make friends more quickly than they used to'

inary hooting voices, who live completely in a world of their own. I thought they'd all have got integrated by now — most of their children have — but I feel rather out of place." The fat, rebellious girl who 60 years ago threw her St Paul's School uniform over Hammer Smith Bridge into the Thames ("it was quite awful, box-pleats trying to flatten your front"), and was expelled for it, is clearly still there, hunking and laughing inside this elegantly slender, manically energetic septuagenarian.

Her new novel, *Dear Doctor Lily*, follows an interruption of eight years in her fiction writing, and is the first book to "make a stab at capturing some of my American neighbours". (She had previously been reported as saying that she came back to England

to research because there wasn't enough to write about in America.) It is also her longest novel yet, covering England and America over a period of 20 years, and has an inner theme which arises, very directly and at times painfully, out of her own recent life.

For Lily, her heroine, is a compulsive do-gooder. She likes to fix up people's lives and take in a procession of lame ducks. "Some of her motives are genuinely good, a desire to help; but she also has this need to be indispensable, which is very insidious." In the process of bossily helping Ida, a GI bride, and her latest hopeless psychopathic boyfriend, Lily accidentally brings disaster on her own family to whom her first duty should have been. Monica Dickens has suffered no disaster of her own making, but freely

admits the link between her and Lily.

"The idea of someone's good works destroying their home must have arisen out of my own somewhat irrational guilt when Roy died. One of the great grief problems is guilt. It is dangerous, it is useless, it is unfair on the dead to think of them up there judging us — but it has to be lived through. I have a lot to be guilty about. I got involved with starting the Samaritans out there, and got hooked into it. It was a huge job. Roy was good about it, but it was hard on the family. There were dark murmurs of 'Mum, you should give Dad more time.' And it came back on me when he died."

In writing the book, she tried to explore the condition, familiar to professional social workers and amateur do-gooders, of becoming dangerously over-involved, drunk with philanthropy and a sense of personal power to do good. British Samaritans have strict rules: no visiting, no taking cases into your own home. Dickens admits that she frequently bent these rules in America, taking in pathetic people, filling her house with lame ducks, "self-indulgently trying to be essential and fix someone's life. But you mustn't. I could sometimes hear new volunteers glowingly saying 'Oh, I must speak to Alice, she says I'm the only person at Samaritans who's ever really understood' — and I know that volunteer is tangled up with a psychopath. Someone who can't be helped by us. You must be balanced."

How had this whirlwind woman evolved from the girl who was too shy to be a deb, and buried herself below stairs without any idea that her servant life would lead to *One Pair of Hands* and to best-seller status? "Oh, I've always had a lot of self-confidence. Despite the gaucheness and self-consciousness when I was young, and the fact that I had a thyroid condition and spent a lot of time very fat and sluggish until it was cured, I was always confident underneath. The deb scene and the dances were absolute agony, but it wasn't just because of shyness: I would look at the waiters and the maids at balls and know for certain that they were having a better time than I was. So I wanted to belong with them, down there where there was a bit of life."

As we left the restaurant after our cup of coffee, her eyes roved around in search of more life. "Wonderful smell," she observed to what I took to be a rather surly and taciturn waitress. "I could eat that now!" In seconds, they were chatting animatedly. I think she will be the life and soul of her survival course.

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Dear Doctor Lily is published by Viking on May 12 (£11.95)

Bitter sweet charity

The only occasion I was chosen to give the Scripture reading at Founders' Day, I asked to read 1 Corinthians, chapter 13. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Charity may mean in today's narrow sense the donation of monies for a tax benefit, or it may mean the financing of grand balls in order to help oneself socially, but as a general concept it means precisely what 1 Corinthians suggested: the love of one's fellow men from which follows the impulse to better the society in which we live. This, I think, was what Mrs Thatcher meant last week.

"When you have finished as a taxpayer," she said, "you have not finished your duty as a citizen. There's more to life than just giving what you are compelled to give."

There seems to be some concern at the prospect of a government making the revival of charity a matter of policy. Some critics have suggested that this is simply the credo of an uncaring government relying on soup kitchens and Maudsley money. Curiously, I found my thoughts on the subject more sharply focused by a report last month from *The Times* Moscow correspondent, who described the reinstatement in the Soviet Union of the concept of charity — a word previously banned there. Concern has been expressed at the plight of Moscow's elderly. Forty-four suicides among lonely people were said to have occurred in March alone.

The reason the word charity was banned in the USSR was that in a socialist society, where freedoms and initiatives are exchanged for security, it was expected that the state would be able to look after everyone. Charity, in classic communist ideology, was a dangerous idea. It could take the sting out of the class struggle, delay the transfer of power to the state and, of course, tend to smooth over the "inherent contradictions" of capitalism.

Some of us never believed that the exchange of liberty for security would create a society without poverty, hunger or dirt. Some of us, moreover, believed that even if it did, it was still a bad bargain. But what the Soviet Union and



BARBARA AMIEL

indeed even the democratic socialist states have discovered is what the Victorians expressed in the sentiment that the poor will always be with us.

There are some problems that are beyond the efforts of the state. You can reduce the numbers of people rendered poor by misfortune or weakness, but it seems impossible to remove misfortune entirely. The lonely pensioners in Moscow, quietly killing themselves, had their social benefits. Their anguish came from the sadness implicit in the human condition. It was the extraordinary hubris of socialism, its cocksure of frontery, that believed anything unpleasant could be banished if people simply gave up liberty.

Mrs Thatcher's concern to renew the charitable impulse in citizens reflects an understanding of the limits of the state's ability to cure all, as well as an appreciation of the mounting cost. Her viewpoint has been echoed by other Conservatives, including Kenneth Baker, who said that people profiting from the Budget tax cuts should be ploughing some of their gains back into helping the less well-off. Then, too, there is the well-being of the community at stake, which manifests itself in the desire for more opera houses or restoration of cherished old buildings. Thatcher is on the right track in calling out to us all to take responsibility for this, but is she ahead of herself?

Top earners now pay 40 per cent tax plus 12 per cent NHS plus VAT. That may be a lot better than paying 98 per cent

tax, but psychologically surely one still feels that one's duty to the state is more than being done. If I am paying over 52 per cent of my income to the state, it seems unlikely that I will worry about the welfare of poets or unwed mothers. These levels of tax burden — except among the truly enormously rich — must diminish a sense of community. As well, it seems to me, there is the further disincentive of state regulation.

If the state is obliging me as an employer to hire, for example, handicapped people, it is going to be very difficult to collect charity from me for the handicapped. So long as the regulatory climate exists, one's frame of mind does not turn naturally to the collective good. The reduction in the regulatory power of the state in order to foster charity is to my mind at least as important as the reduction of taxes. You cannot order and beg with the same hand.

Meanwhile, in our time we have tried to instill the idea that failure is nothing to be ashamed of and that no one ever fails because of their own inadequacy, but only because of the defects of society. This may sometimes be true, but it seems to me to be standing human nature on its head.

Hasn't humanity always operated on a fundamental biological assumption that failure was a cause of shame? There is an immense danger in making people feel that having less gives rise to an entitlement, and more to a liability. As far as I can see, there is nothing in human or animal nature to indicate that if you reward a quality like irresponsibility it will diminish, and if you punish a quality like productivity it will increase. This being said, how on earth does a government encourage people to be provident, discourage imprudence and still maintain a safety net of social benefits?

Through a combination of private charity and a sharp reduction of intrusive government policies, I suppose. But speaking from the comfy position of armchair critic, I'm afraid I don't know how to get us all to change our attitudes without a very bumpy transition period. Thatcher is on the high wire once more, trying to recalibrate our moral compass. It is a gruelling performance.



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* Daycream. Selective Distribution, Units 1987.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00** *Casualty* 3.00
6.40 *Friday Prayers for Ramadan*
1400 A.H. The third of four
programmes introduced by
Prince Hassan bin Talal (r). 6.55
Weather.
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy
Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes
national and international news
at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30;
regional news and travel
reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15;
weather at 7.25, 7.55 and
8.25. 8.35 Regional news and
weather.
- 9.00** News and weather followed by
Open Air. Bob Wellings receives
visitors' comments on
yesterday's television
programmes. To contribute
ring 051-814 0424. 9.20 *Karely* is
Japanese investment in Britain
a misadventure? A discussion
chaired by Robert Kinnell-Silk.
9.30 *News* and weather followed by
Four Square (r). 10.25 *Children's*
BBC. Andy Crane with
programme news and birthday
greetings followed by *Play*
School, presented by Elizabeth
Watts with guests Andrew
Scrimshaw and Della Morgan (r).
and *Paddington* 10.30. 10.40
Five to Eleven. Ronald Pickup
with a reading.
- 11.00** News and weather followed by
Open Air with Bob Wellings and
Janet Ellis.
- 12.00** News and weather followed by
Help is There. Marilyn Lewis
presents the last of four
programmes marking Europe
Against Cancer Week.
(Ceejay) 12.15 *Glyn Christian's*
New Zealand. The south of
South Island (r). 12.45 *The Blue*
Racer. Carolee 12.50. 1.00
Regional news and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with
Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30.
1.30 *Neighbours*. An engagement
ring and a man are the prelude
to a disaster that strikes the
whole of Ramsey Street. 1.50
Four Square. Quiz game
presented by Michael Groth.

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Science*—
Stars, Stars and Spectra. Ends at
7.00.
- 9.00** *Casualty* 3.00
- 9.30** *Daytime on Two*: the effect on
Africa of being split into colonies
and how this contributed to the
growth and wealth of Britain. 9.55
The responsibility of a brother
and sister to each other. 10.15
Teenagers examine the
problem of acid rain on German
forests 10.30. The different
roles taken by the first car,
railway and the car in the
cross-section of the Pennines.
10.40. *John Lauchlan* with a children's
story 11.15. *Mindstretchers*
11.25. *Casualty* 11.35. Why the
ancient city of Athens is
spreading more into the desert.
12.00 The power of language.
Ken Dodd on making people
laugh; Linda Thompson sings a
love song 12.25. The
repercussions of a death in the
family 1.05. German language.
1.20 *Bertha: A Sea-Saw* programme
for the very young (r).
- 1.30** *English Time*. The actor John
Woodruff and a teacher help a
group of children explore how
people make judgments (r).
- 2.00** News and weather followed by
a series for four- and five-year-
olds (r).
- 2.15** *Weekend Outlook*. A preview
of the week-end and an Open University
programme (r).
- 2.30** *International Golf*. The Epson
Grand Prix of Europe from St
Peters Golf and Country Club,
Chesham, introduced by Steve
Rider. An 18-hole matchplay
event over four rounds. Among
the eight seeded players are
Peter Alliss, Bruce Crampton and
Peter Clark. Includes news and
weather at 2.40 and 3.00.
- 3.30** *Blue Sides* (1945) starring
Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and
Joan Crawford. Irving Berlin
musical about a pair of song
and dance men in love with the
same girl. Among the featured
songs, besides the title song,
are *How Deep Is the Ocean* and
Heart Wave. Directed by Stuart
Heisler.

BBC2

- 7.15** *Two Avery Double Bill*. *Slap*
Happy Lion and Who Killed Who?
7.30 *On the News*. Patti Colwell
examines a new budget
approach to central heating. Rick Bell
restores a pair of dining chairs;
and viewer Mike Wood
receives advice on how to hang a
new door in the opposite
direction. Plus the latest news of
new developments in the home
improvement field.
- 8.00** *Weekend*. Guy Michelmore
looks at the leisure and
entertainment scene in the
south-east area (see variations for
other regions' programmes).
- 8.30** *Gardeners' World* from
Barnsley with Geoff Hamilton
and Anne Swinbank. Advice
on organically grown tomatoes;
how to tackle slugs; and
starting off courgettes, marrow
and cucumbers.
- 9.00** *Blackadder III*. Edmund finds
himself in Regency England in
cash-straitened circumstances
as butler and confidant to the
foppish Prince Regent. This
evening Edmund debiles in
politics (r). (Ceejay)
- 9.30** *Review*. In this week's edition
of the arts and media magazine
programme Robin Denelow
goes to Paris to investigate the
day's burgeoning ethnic music
scene. Liz Ripley
reviews *On the Black Hill*, the
film adapted from Bruce Chatwin's
novel and Jean Cocteau's
answer to *Jules et Jim*.
- 10.00** *Secret Services*. The
Prophetess. Angie and Garima
talk frankly about why they
continue to ply their profession in
the face of the AIDS epidemic.
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songs, besides the title song,
are *How Deep Is the Ocean* and
Heart Wave. Directed by Stuart
Heisler.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with *The Sports*
Show introduced by Geoff Clark.
His guests are Nigel Benn and
John Conner. 6.30 *The Morning*
Show presented by Richard
Kaye. 7.00 *Good Morning Britain*
with Anne Diamond and Mike
Morris. After Nine includes Russell
Grant's astrology slot.
- 9.25** *Thames news*.
- 9.30** *Casualty* 3.00
- 10.30** *The Time... The Place...* Mike Scott chairs
a discussion on style. Among the
guests are Janice Pennington,
Hannah Gordon and Flossie
Benjamin. 11.10 *Learning with Puppets* (r).
- 11.30** *The Country* in the Country.
Can the country really live its
regular invasion of visitors?
Eric Vealby investigates 12.00
The Saturday. Australian
drama serial *12.30* *Country*.
Quiz game with Geoffrey Kelly.
The guest is Richard Dignane.
- 1.00** News at One with Julia
Somerville 1.25 *Thames news*
- 1.30** *News* in a Double Bill. A
double-bill on the trail of a released
prisoner who is searching for
his former colleagues and his
share of the loot (r). 2.30 9 to
5. American comedy series about
office life.
- 3.00** *Take the High Road*. Dr
Wallace has to make a report to
the police. 3.30 *News* and
weather. 4.00 *Daughters*. Australian family
drama serial.
- 4.00** *Revolution*. Australian with
Patsy Kensit. 4.30 *News* and
weather. 4.45 *Spash* includes
a 15-year-old girl.
- 5.15** *Watership Ten*. Family quiz
presented by Geoffrey Wheeler
with Vicky McDermid.
- 5.45** *News* with Fiona Armstrong.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30** *Schools*.
- 12.30** *News* in Focus. Part four of
the series explores pond life (r).
- 1.00** *Business Daily*. Financial and
business news service presented
by John Plender.
- 1.30** *On Course*. Magazine series
for Open College learners
introduced by Anna Ford.
- 2.00** *The Parliament* with
Stephen Fry. A review of
yesterday's debates in
both Houses and a look
forward to those scheduled for
today.
- 2.30** *Who Cares?* An
examination of the implications
behind decisions about the
conservation of old buildings.
Presented by the author of the
book on which the programme is
based, architect Donald Insall
(r).
- 3.30** *Time to Remember* (b/w). The
years 1943 and 1944 when United
States airmen helped bomb
Berlin and then the town in
the town. Narrated by
William Bend Sin.
- 4.00** *Talbot: That Little Springtime*. A
documentary about the
countryside community in
France. Founded by the beginning
of the Second World War by
Brother Roger, formerly Roger
Schutz (r).
- 4.30** *Criminology*. Yesterday's
winner is challenged by Keith
Myerscough, an electrician
from Stalybridge. Richard
Whitely is the questionmaster
assisted by Sylvia Sims in the
dramatic comedy series.
- 5.00** *Winners*. *Quest Beyond Time*. A
film made by the Australian
Children's Television
Foundation about a young man on
a long odyssey. 5.30 *News* and
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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lower tax rate boost for new businesses

Lower tax rates have boosted the number of new businesses being launched and helped to reverse the brain drain while increasing revenue for the Exchequer, said Mr Peter Lilley, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. In due course revenue from the new 40 per cent top rate of income tax would exceed that from the previous higher rates.

He said that between 1980 and 1986 the number of businesses trading in Britain, allowing for closures, had increased by 179,000. Some of these businesses had been started by expatriate Britons who last year returned in record numbers. The stimulus to business from lower tax rates meant that tax yields at the lower rates had increased. Since the staged cut in corporation tax from 52 per cent to 35 per cent in 1984, company profits had risen sharply and the yield from the tax has more than doubled, he added.

Select final increases 62%

Select Appointments, the USM-quoted recruitment agency, pushed pretax profits up 62 per cent to £1.91 million for the year to April. Earnings per share rose by 41 per cent to 10p. The final dividend of 1.5p made 2.5p for the year. Select wrote off bills of £356,000 - incurred during temporarily halted takeover plans - as an extraordinary charge.

Name change for Newman

Shareholders in Newman Industries yesterday voted to change the company's name to Adel. The Adel group of companies from the core fastening and assembly systems of the group. At the annual shareholders' meeting, Mr Nigel McLean, the chairman, said that the results for the first quarter of the current year had met the board's best expectations.

Bell shares sale legal

The Aus\$330m (£135.88 million) sale of Bell Group shares by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian entrepreneur, was not illegal, the National Companies and Securities Commission (NCSC) said yesterday. A spokesman for the NCSC, Australia's corporate watchdog, confirmed Mr Holmes & Court's own view that the sale of 39.8 per cent of his company was legal.

Mr Holmes & Court had taken "all possible steps" to keep negotiations with the two buyers separate, the spokesman said. Both the Western Australian government-owned State Government Insurance Commission (SGIC) and Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation Holding last week each bought 19.9 per cent of Bell Group and the spokesman said the NCSC wanted to know whether two had acted in concert.

THFC names chairman

Mr Norman Ireland, the chairman of Bowater Industries, has been appointed to the chairmanship of The Housing Finance Corporation. THFC is one of the organizations seeking to introduce private sector housing into social housing schemes. Mr Ireland replaces Mr David Hopkinson, who has resigned on health grounds.

3.3p payout from MIL

MIL Research Group, the independent market research company, reports pretax profits of £1.78 million for the year to January 31 compared with £1.61 million. Turnover rose from £12.6 million to £14.1 million while earnings per share were up from 10.8p to 13p. The company is paying a final dividend of 2.2p, making 3.3p for the year (nil).

Staff trading banned

Drexel Burnham Lambert, the US securities house, said it will stop its employees from purchasing portions of the company's new debt issues because it wanted to halt any appearance of improper practices. Employees had been allowed to buy junk bond issues, underwritten by the firm, and resell them at higher prices to investors.

Drexel's action comes after Congressional hearings last week focusing attention on the practice and other aspects of the company's operations. The hearings followed several months of investigation. In a statement, Drexel said it wanted to "avoid any appearance of possible unfairness" as a result of questions raised about purchases by employee-related accounts of public debt offerings.

Wellcome caught in Aids dilemma

Wellcome is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea where its Aids treatment drug, Retrovir, is concerned.

If the drug's profitability is revealed, the incidence of emotional demonstrations outside US manufacturing installations (asking for the drug to be given away) will rise, while the authorities may pay unwelcome attention to the drug's pricing structure.

But if Wellcome remains coy about Retrovir's profitability, commentators may fail to assess the strengths not only of this drug but also of the rest of the business. Wellcome's portfolio of drugs is, after all, impressive.

Retrovir has come from nowhere in three years, while most drugs take at least 10 years to develop.

Indeed, the cost of producing Retrovir so rapidly and running extensive clinical trials after the product has become freely available, could eat into future profits.

Clinical trials on sero-positive patients (those with the Aids virus but without symptoms) for instance, will be lengthy and expensive.

Moreover, the lead time Wellcome has over the competition may be eroded, leaving Retrovir either to compete with other drugs, thereby damaging margins, or seeing it overtaken by a more efficacious drug. Joint usage of Retrovir with another product is, however, the most likely

longer-term outcome. The efficacy of using Retrovir with Zovirax, the anti-herpes drug, for example, will be demonstrated at an Aids conference in Stockholm next month.

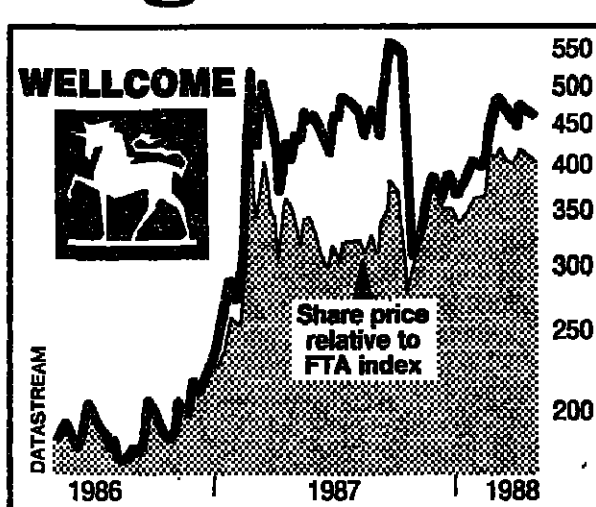
Wellcome says the interim profit contribution from Retrovir was not significant, although estimates suggest it was about 10 per cent of profits. The 1988-89 financial year should see a much greater impact.

Until then, Zovirax remains the vehicle driving profits forward. Underlying growth was 45 per cent, stripping out currency effect.

Research and development expenditure now accounts for 12.7 per cent of turnover, up from 11.7 per cent in 1986-87. Currency movements disguise a more marked increase, although Wellcome is confident that additional costs on developing Retrovir will not push R&D higher.

Gearing remains in check at under 20 per cent of shareholders' funds although higher average borrowings during the period led to an increased interest charge.

Wellcome should make at least £200 million this year unless currencies deteriorate much more. The share price performance will continue to rest on the incidence of news on Retrovir - the next highlight is the Stockholm seminar. Otherwise, the rating, on fundamentals, is well up with events.



Thorntons

The present taste for British chocolate brands in the international stock market makes this a propitious time to be offering a high class chocolate manufacturer and retailer for sale.

Thorntons, of course, says the pricing of the issue had nothing to do with the bid premium in Rowntree and Cadbury Schweppes, and indeed any bid premium would be misplaced because the Thornton family and associated trusts will retain 73 per cent of the company after the issue.

The shares at 125p are on a prospective p/e ratio of 14.6 for the year to the end of this month. For a food manufacturer, the price is somewhat

expensive, but for a specialty food retailer it is about right. Given expected growth in earnings next year of 15 to 20 per cent, the prospective p/e falls to about 12.5.

Thorntons' profitability has risen sharply in the past three years helped by investment in new plant and falls in raw material prices, particularly cocoa.

The £7.4 million pretax profits forecast for this year include £670,000 of property profits against an even higher £692,000 last year, which to some extent dilute the quality of earnings. They also contain £90,000 of trading losses from a start-up venture in retail confectionery in the US and two gift shops in Greater London. Both activities have now been discontinued.

The £8.5 million new

money raised, after costs of £1.5 million, will be used to expand the retail chain, develop new products, increase sales to corporate customers and make acquisitions in both Europe and Britain.

The limited size of the issue, with only 17 million shares being offered for sale, and the probable lack of a buoyant aftermarket because of the tight family control mean the issue is unlikely to have a huge institutional appeal.

However, with 20,000 prospectuses going out to Thornton's customers through its shops, the issue is likely to appeal more to the general public and as such the flotation is expected to go well.

The notional yield is 2.2 per cent.

Caparo Ind

Mr Swraj Paul has finally given up the attempt to tame Fidelity. The hi-fi business has been a disaster since his Caparo Industries splashed out £14 million for it in November 1984 and he would undoubtedly have been spared a lot of grief, not to mention cash, had he taken a lead from Armstrong's Alan Sugar, who ran an eye over the company but walked away.

Fidelity's third year of losses sliced £3.6 million off Caparo's group profits and it has been biting deep into group earnings again in 1988. It did not wipe profits out

completely - they rose by 38 per cent - but it has finally put paid to the dividend.

Mr Paul determinedly held the distribution through 1985 and 1986 even though Fidelity's losses robbed it of adequate cover, but now the law takes a hand. Fidelity's final legacy to the group is a £10.7 million provision which has left a deficit on distributable reserves and that means no dividends can be paid.

Granted shareholder approval and High Court clearance, the envisaged rescue, the envisaged restructuring will put that position right promptly enough to cause little hardship and, indeed, a special interim is projected for payment in July.

Of greater concern to shareholders are the prospects for Caparo without Fidelity and at this point they look good. The industrial activities are going from strength to strength.

The open offer is in convertible stock, at 125p, a 10 per cent discount to the market and Allied Dunbar has demonstrated its confidence by picking up half the stock on offer, although its involvement still only whittles the Paul interests down from 71.7 to 64.2 per cent, fully diluted.

There will be little of the convertible stock around and not many more ordinarys, but a single figure p/e at 40p should ensure plenty of demand for what there is.

HK trio agree 'hands off' deal with Keswick group

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

Three of Hong Kong's most powerful businessmen yesterday agreed a unique "hands off" deal with the Keswick family's group of companies.

Under the deal, Mr Li Kay-shing of Cheung Kong, Mr Lee Shau-kee, the chairman of Henderson Land, and Mr Cheng Yu-tung, the chairman of New World, agreed that their companies will not take major stakes in any of the Keswick businesses for the next seven years.

The Peking-backed China International Trust and Investment Corporation also agreed not to buy big holdings in the companies. Jardine Matheson, Jardine Strategic, Hongkong Land, Dairy Farm International and Mandarin Oriental International.

The agreement was reached

after an all-night meeting that finished at 4am yesterday and is seen as an important victory for Jardine.

It had insisted on the "hands off" promise as part of a deal in which it agreed to pay HK\$1.8 billion (£120 million) for 205 million ordinary and preferred ordinary shares in Hongkong Land.

The three tycoons, and CITIC, had amassed the shares over the past year, fuelling speculation that they were preparing to mount a full takeover bid for the property company, which is Hong Kong's biggest landlord.

Before the stock market crash last year it was speculated that they had offered the Keswicks HK\$17 a share for their stake in Hongkong Land.

After the October share slump any takeover plans would have been put into cold storage as under the Crown Colony's code on takeovers and mergers they would have had to have made a general offer at the highest price paid in the past six months.

The six-month deadline past last month, and local stockbrokers' analysts were predicting that the three would press for board representation at the company's annual meeting on June 6 and that a full bid would follow. On Wednesday the three property magnates asked the Keswick family to sell its stake in Hongkong Land, but the offer was refused.

The Keswick family is using Jardine Strategic Holdings, to buy the shares at HK\$8.95 each, compared with Wednesday's closing price of HK\$8.90.

£7.35m aid for Telemetrix

By Martin Waller

Telemetrix, the troubled maker of computer graphics terminals, has announced a massive rescue scheme to counterbalance pretax losses more than doubled from £1.19 million to £2.41 million in the six months to the start of January.

Allied Electronics Corporation of South Africa, which claims 60 per cent of the market there, is pumping in £7.35 million by subscribing

for 35 million new shares at 21p each.

At the same time, existing shareholders are being offered 5.22 million new shares at the same price on a one-for-four basis. This compares with a stock market price of 33p yesterday.

If the rights issue is taken up in full, the South Africans will hold 57 per cent of the company, to be used as a springboard for expansion into the European electronics

industry. Once a couple of property disposals and the sale of a loss-making subsidiary are completed, Telemetrix will have cash balances of about £8 million and will be looking for acquisitions.

Mr Roy Cotterill, the former GEC man who chairs Telemetrix, said the bad news was now out of the way with the interim figures, which include an exceptional loss of £1.71 million and an extraordinary debit of £1.15 million.

More unit trusts to be won

Can you identify the businessman from the photograph? If not, pick up your telephone and call 0898-141-141, where you will hear our mystery guest talking about his company. Identify him, and four other businessmen this week and £2,000 of unit trusts could be yours.

Our Stockwatcher competition, with £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life as prizes, is now in its third week, and we have doubled the prize money.

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a single telephone call each day, Monday to Friday.

You can play right now (or at any time, day or night) by calling 0898-141-141, the Stockwatcher competition number.

Each day we will publish

a new picture, and when you call 0898-141-400 you will hear a different voice, five each week. The recording of the personality will change at 4am each day.

Details of how to complete your entry to this week's competition will appear in The Times on Saturday, together with an entry coupon.

The first correct entry opened after the closing date will win the £2,000 worth of unit trusts. Winners may select the type of unit trust they prefer from a range recommended by Equitable Life.

Call 0898-141-400 now. Can you identify the voice of today's business leader?

Engineers predict 4% output rise

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Engineering output is expected to rise in volume by about 4 per cent in the period from January this year to June next. This would be half the rapid volume growth seen in the previous 18 months.

The forecast is made by the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) in its latest economic trends survey and echoes other bullish industrial indicators, notably the recent trends surveys of the Confederation of British Industry.

Greatest growth is forecast in the electronics and computer sectors with sales expected to rise 8.3 per cent by the first half of next year compared with the latter half of 1987. This is just under half the rate of the previous 18 months.

But other electrical and instrument engineering is expected to increase only 1.3 per cent.

A big fall in growth is expected for motor vehicle output, estimated to rise 3.6 per cent by mid-1989 against a near 30 per cent rise.

Aerospace equipment output is expected to increase 6.2 per cent compared with 18.3 per cent in the earlier period.

Output of metal goods is predicted to decline slightly after the middle of this year, ending the 18-month period 2.4 per cent down after 7.7 per cent growth last time. Mechanical engineering is expected to rise 2.4 per cent against 4.5 per cent growth.

Employment in engineering, which fell by an estimated 7 per cent between 1985 and 1987, is forecast to decline by a further 2 per cent this year.

Profits increase by 17% despite substantial adverse currency movements

Continued growth in antivirals, including AIDS treatment

Interim dividend 1.0p per share

Interim results for the half-year ended 27 February 1988 (unaudited)

	1st half 1988 £m	1st half 1987 £m	Percentage Increase
Turnover	588.0	557.1	+6%
Pre-tax profit	94.8	81.2	+17%
Earnings per share	6.4p	5.5p	+17%

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Waiting for the moment to expand



Timewatch: Marcus Margulies, the chief executive, with watch samples yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

Time Products clocks up 50% jump to £11.46m

By Martin Waller

Time Products, the watch distributor, raised pretax profits by 50 per cent to £11.46 million in the year to January 31, helped by the August acquisition of the Piaget and Baume & Mercier distribution agencies in Britain.

The profits were also

boosted by the company's growing cash mountain, with investment income of £1.81 million in the year, up from £194,000 last time.

Cash balances grew by more than £5 million to in excess of £23 million during the year, as Time continued to cast about for a good home for the money.

"I would love to have spent it. But we're not prepared to spend money unless we can see what we're buying," Mr. Marcus Margulies, the chief executive, said.

The company was looking to expand its distribution network in the United States and would like to acquire agency rights to another line of

luxury goods it could market alongside its watches.

These include the Sekonda brand, the British market leader, with 1.6 million sales last year.

Including borrowing facilities and realizations from its property portfolio, Time could handle a purchase of £50 million or more.

Power industry float in stages

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, said yesterday that the privatized power industry will come to the market in three separate issues.

He also said the flotations will be carried out in more than one stage, with the Government retaining shares in each of the privatized companies so that a second, or even third, tranche of shares can be sold on the market.

The first flotation will be of the 12 area distribution boards in an issue which would allow customers to buy into their own local company. Large institutional buyers will be given a chance to buy a single security, covering all 12 companies, which they could split up to take larger holdings in individual companies through trading in the market place.

Mr Parkinson also said the distribution companies will come to the market in two years' time, followed by the two generating companies — Big G and Little G — being created from the Central Electricity Generating Board.

He said the flotation would be carried out in three parts because the Department of Energy now accepts that the stock market will not have the appetite to consume a large single flotation of around £18 billion.

He said: "The market couldn't absorb all of them at once. And because of the vast sums involved, the Government will not sell all its shares in each company at one go. There will be subsequent sales of remaining equity."

● The privatization of the CEGB will mean that its research into the next generation of nuclear power — the fast-breeder programme — will effectively end. The CEGB provides £30 million of the annual funding into research into the programme, but Lord Marshall, the chairman, said it could not support such spending as a privately owned company.

The Government is also about to announce it is reviewing its commitment to the programme. A report from Mr John Fairclough, the Government Chief Scientist, is believed to have concluded there is little prospect of short-term commercial potential for the system.

An end to research could jeopardize jobs at Dounreay, where the British Atomic Energy Authority is concentrating its research into the commercial development of fast breeder reactors.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Knocking the stuffing out of Sir Philip

An unknown but not altogether unwelcome predator saved Sir Philip Harris the embarrassment of watching the share price of Harris Queensway sliding all the way down to perhaps 100p, but the reluctant knight's relief is likely to be short lived.

If the suitor is serious, then it will be hard for Sir Phil, even with the backing of the big guns of Great Universal Stores, to resist. If the bid fails to materialise, the shares will fall. They are unlikely to go all the way down to the level they would command purely on trading grounds, because the group is now "in play" and it will take a good set of results from Sir Phil and his team to put it back to the sidelines.

There is virtually nothing in yesterday's package to give shareholders any expectation of a rapid recovery. A promise to concentrate, even with vigour, "on enhancing sales throughout margins and cashflow, and to increase returns to levels experienced in the past" thereby re-establishing our growth pattern hardly cuts much ice. If the management was not applying it vigorously in those directions last year, it should have been. If it was, it is hard to see from the outside why it should be successful this year where it failed last.

The most worrying aspect of the statement is it provides little indication that the trading problem at the furniture division is capable of swift solution. Mass market retailing is a fast moving

picture, and it is hard to escape the conclusion, from the evidence of British Homes Stores, Woolworth (the variety store rather than the group as a whole) and others, that once a company loses its momentum it can take years to recover.

Fast expansion and poor control knocked the stuffing out of the furniture division: knowing what will put it back on course is less certain. The major worry is that there is a structural problem with out of town furniture retailing, especially since the MFI upholstered creation Ashton Dean has packed its bags and left the sheds. If there is a major problem, then even the value of the assets becomes questionable.

In the bid stakes, the Swedish group IKEA is put forward as front runner, with Mountleigh a knowing second. Whether a break-up bid could provide enough profit for those taking the equity risk depends on the value of group assets. A revaluation of assets would have to form a cornerstone of any bid defence, and a figure of well above 100p a share looks easy to substantiate.

Meanwhile Great Universal Stores with its 24 per cent stake will back the management, which effectively bid-proofs Sir Phil except on his own terms. But even GUS would not be overjoyed to see the shares back to the 100p or so they would command on purely trading terms.

Ivory smartens up its pitch

The battles over future direction of two Edinburgh based investment trusts flicker into life again today after a few weeks of relative calm. As expected, the results will be scrutinised with extreme interest in the vicinity of Charlotte Square, centre of the Scottish fund management industry. In that sometimes inward-looking environment, the normal reaction of entrepreneurs when they see a pound's worth of sound assets on sale for 80p, are regarded with horror. And when outsiders try to muscle in on this apparent economic aberration, they tend to be vilified.

So it is with US backed raiders corralled by Grace Pinto Associates, which has set its sights firmly on unitising the Crescent Japan fund, which is run by Edinburgh Fund Managers. Two weeks ago the raiders made a giant stride towards their goal by pushing through a vote in favour of unitization. Next move is designed to ensure that any unitization maximises the benefits to existing shareholders.

Perish the thought, but Grace Pinto appears to be concerned that the managers might not be inclined to spare the expense if they are forced unwillingly into a unitization. And they wish to prevent any of the shareholders cash

being used by the managers to oppose unitization. To this end they want EFM executives disbarred from involvement in the scheme.

Meanwhile, Ivory & Sime are apparently having a fresh attempt to win shareholder backing for their plans to restructure Japan Assets Trust. This was part of a fiendishly complex scheme involving three Ivory & Sime managed trusts which hit the rocks when investors delivered their verdict two months ago. This time the prognostications are, according to market sources, considerably better. Last time, the proposals were never put to ordinary shareholders. The scheme was conditional on approval of the loan stock holders, who voted first and threw it out.

It seems that Ivory & Sime have been diligently sounding out the key players in the saga and honing the details to make them more presentable. Apparently the range of choices facing investors has been narrowed and the objecting loan stock holders will be offered some kind of sweetener on the conversion terms, albeit at the expense of ordinary shareholders.

The betting north and south of the border is that Ivory & Sime has an excellent prospect of success second time round.

Thorntons valued at £78.6m

By Alison Eadie

Thorntons, the upmarket manufacturer and retailer of chocolates, toffee and other confectionery, is coming to the stock market in an offer for sale which values it at £78.6 million.

The family firm was founded in 1911 when Mr Joseph William Thornton opened his first sweet shop in Sheffield. The company is now run by the founder's grandsons Mr John Thornton, the chairman and chief executive, and Mr Michael Thornton, the deputy chairman and deputy chief executive.

The company has 201 specialist retail outlets and 92 independent franchised outlets. The retail outlets are mainly Thorntons shops, but include 25 Mary Morrison shops selling greeting cards and gift products. Sales to corporate customers have grown in importance in recent years and Marks and Spencer now accounts for 8.5 per cent of Thorntons sales.

The shops are supplied almost exclusively from the company's own manufacturing facilities near Derby with the raw chocolate coming from two suppliers in the UK and Belgium. The offer, through S G Warburg and Granville, will raise £8.5 million for the company. A total of 17 million shares are being sold at 125p. Applications lists will close on Friday, May 13 and dealings are expected to start on May 24.

Tempos page 24

Caparo shuts down Fidelity

By Michael Tate

Fidelity, the ill-starred hi-fi business, is to close down. Mr Swraj Paul's Caparo Industries has failed to staunch the flow of cash from the company in the three years since it took control, and is writing off the business at a cost to the balance sheet of £10.7 million.

Of that, £5.8 million will be raised from Caparo shareholders through an open share offer, but plans to finance the provisions also include writing down the share capital. The 25p ordinary shares will become 1p shares, and the two classes of £1 convertible preference share will be written down to 20p.

Mr Paul's master company, Caparo Group, however, will not be taking up its entitlement to half the shares on offer. These have been placed

with two Allied Dunbar funds. Fidelity was in trouble when Caparo bought it for £14 million in October 1984. Mr Paul says the losses are "no longer acceptable." Figures out yesterday show a further £3.6 million operating loss for Fidelity last year and the business is still losing money.

The closure, which will take place in stages this year, will

eliminate the longstanding drain on group profits and free working capital.

Caparo raised pretax profits by 38 per cent, from £1.6 million to £2.2 million last year, on turnover up by 10 per cent at £150.1 million, despite the Fidelity losses.

But there is no dividend for ordinary shareholders, and

neither will any distribution be legally payable to holders of the convertible preference stock if the proposed financial package is not sanctioned by shareholders and the High Court. Fidelity's losses have left the group with a £20.6 million deficit.

Ordinary holders will receive a 0.9p special interim in July if the scheme is approved.

The open offer comprises 4.8 million new 8p dividend convertible preference shares at 128p each. Ordinary holders will be entitled to one new convertible for every 16.2825 shares held, while holders of the existing 8 per cent convertibles, to be reclassified as 8p convertibles, will qualify for one for 5.6989 shares, and holders of the 8.75 per cent stock, to be designated 8.75p, will be entitled to 6.5310 new shares for every one held.

Showdown near in trust war

By Our City Staff

The American concert party seeking to unitize the Crescent Japan Investment Trust is taking the battle to the private shareholders, who have been reckoned until now to be overwhelmingly on the side of the board.

As the Scottish investment trust industry awaits the date for the final showdown — the next extraordinary meeting in Edinburgh — the Americans are writing to Crescent Japan shareholders to put their case.

At the last meeting, on April 22, the concert party cleared the first hurdle and required the board to draw up unitiza-

tion proposals. The Americans are now threatening to call a further meeting to remove all or part of the board unless they are given answers to three specific questions.

First, they want confirmation of their own claim that unitization would realize for shareholders at least 96 per cent of Crescent Japan's net asset value. They are also calling for an assurance that no more company money will be spent "in mounting a minority defence against unitization," claiming costs have already reached £300,000.

Finally, they are requiring

that the scheme be drawn up only by directors who are independent of Edinburgh Fund Managers, which manages Crescent Japan on a five-year contract.

The concert party is Grace Pinto and Associates, a New York group of investors with links with Sterling, Grace, a broker.

At the last meeting 66 per cent of all shareholders did not want the company to continue as an investment trust.

Unitization needs a 75 per cent vote. With much of the institutional holding apparently entrenched, the private client could hold the key.

Money out of a Stone

The machinations of New York corporate raider Gordon Gekko in Oliver Stone's film *Wall Street* are proving as popular in Britain as they have been in the United States, where the chilling portrait of unbridled greed and corruption in downtown Manhattan has so far grossed \$13.5 million. Over here, it is showing only at the Odeon in Leicester Square, where those cinemagoers who have managed to get seats have to push through an unprecedented number of ticket touts (apparently, some are even calling themselves risk arbitrageurs in the strange belief that this sounds more respectable). Full every night, the cinema has taken £140,699 in its first six days. According to Gerard Le Fevre of 20th Century Fox, it is doing "fabulously well, having beaten the previous record set by the James Bond film *Living Daylights*." However, *Wall Street*'s takings are still about £5,000 short of the current record-holder, *Three Men and a Cradle*. How anyone would rather watch three grown men dandling a baby than settle down to a dose of money, power and sex in the backrooms of Wall Street must fox Gekko. Gekko, whom merchant banker Roger Secig describes as a "corporate carnivore whose heart, one feels, was removed at birth and replaced by a nuclear-driven financial accumulator," thinks even lunch is for worms.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

By George, he's got it

When, in 1979, Keith Clark's barber shop in Dallas was in a financial mess, he made a deal with T Boone Pickens that changed his life. Clark offered to trim Pickens's hair for free if the well-groomed Texan oil tycoon would invest the barber's fast receding bank balance. Clark handed over his life savings of \$5,000 to Pickens, a loyal customer since 1967. Within a year the \$5,000 had been turned into \$50,000 and Clark has not

looked back, expanding his empire to include two training schools for barbers and beauticians. Clark — who describes Pickens as "a good player" and says "you can't be around Mr Pickens without picking up some of the ambition" — is now sharing a lecture tour platform with the oil magnate in places like Detroit, Cleveland and Washington, where he is no doubt being paraded as a reformed Elton Doolittle to Pickens's Henry Higgins.

Chiene's walk

Spotted at 7am in the Kings Road, Chelsea, yesterday:



"Whoever it is could have the carpet pulled out from under them."

John Chiene, former senior partner of stockbroker Wood Mackenzie and now chief executive of County NatWest Securities, in the unlikely circumstance of helping a brace of policemen with their inquiries. Those passers-by who had not seen the policemen flagging down Chiene's gleaming BMW 635 M series might be forgiven for thinking that the swanky £45,000 car had broken down for Chiene and his uniformed companions spent some time peering under the bonnet. In fact, they were looking for the car's engine number. A string of BMWs has mysteriously disappeared from that fashionable area of London and the police were just trying to confirm that Chiene's machine was not one of the stolen motors. Needless to say, it was not and the honest Scot continued on his way.

Slow but trustee

Following an article in *The Times* this week revealing widespread failures by directors to disclose share dealings in their own companies within the statutory five-day period, English National Investment Company, an investment trust, has claimed something of a record for foot-dragging in this regard. The company has revealed details of dealings which involve one of its directors a full six years after they were executed. Details of changes in the non-beneficial shareholding of English National's chairman, David Hunter — the director concerned — were given to the Stock Exchange on Tuesday, May 3. They referred back, however, to Mr Hunter's appointment as a trustee of a trust holding English National shares on May 5, 1982 — a disclosure event under company law. For good measure, dealings in 1985 and 1986 were also revealed. Better late than never.

● Margaret Thatcher's favourite householder, Sir Lawrie Barratt, may be moving into sports sponsorship. Looks on his Yorkshire estate are seeking his help to revive their soccer team which disbanded two years ago. "We're not asking for big money," says one local. "Just enough to buy a new team strip, something to cover expenses and a decent field to play on. We wouldn't mind having Barratt written all over us." The last side had to clear the pitch of sheep before kick-off.

Joe Joseph

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S
NEW RATES OF INTERESTNEW RATES OF INTEREST ON INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS.
EFFECTIVE FROM 7TH MAY 1988

CURRENT DEPARTMENTS	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.
Ordinary Account	3.50	4.67
MAXIMISER Bonus (including full bonus)	6.50	8.67
MAXIMISER Income (£5,000 or more)	6.75	9.00
MAXIMISER Growth (£5,000 or more)	7.00	9.33
Prosperity Plan (2nd Issue—Annual version)	7.83	10.44
Prosperity Share (2nd Issue)	7.44	9.92
High Yield S.A.Y.E. (over 7 years)	7.47	9.96
Flexible Savings (including full bonus)	4.50	6.00
Startline Homebuilder (including bonus)	4.50	6.00
TIMESAVER Pay Plan	3.50	4.67
Deposit Account	3.00	4.00
Overseas Resident Account	—	8.62

The rates on other investment accounts not shown above will be reduced by 0.50% net p.a. from 7th May 1988, (except for S.A.Y.E. which will not change).

CLOSED DEPARTMENTS

All investment accounts in Closed Departments will have their rates reduced by 0.50% net p.a. from 7th May 1988. In addition, the following will apply

	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.
*Premium Access (Issue 1) differential to be 1.93% giving	5.43	7.24
*Premium Access (Issue 2) premium rate to be 2.0% giving	5.50	7.33
†Extra Interest/Extra Income differential to be 1.93% giving	5.43	7.24
Real Gold Bonus rate now 2.50% giving (Inc. Full Bonus)	6.00	8.00

*Effective from 14th May 1988

†Effective from 7th June 1988

Interest rates are variable. Gross equivalents assume Income Tax is paid at the basic rate of 25%.



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STOCK MARKETS

Bid for Racal could be on the way

FRANKFURT

Daimler-Benz leads losses in blue chips

NEW YORK

Learonal sank by 5 to 15%. Asarco ended acquisition talks. On Wednesday, the Dow average closed 22.05 lower at 2,036.31.

WALL STREET

[illegible]

UNILEVER N.V.

[illegible]

The City expressed surprise at the timing of the announcement. The group is now thought to

1,430.7. shares.

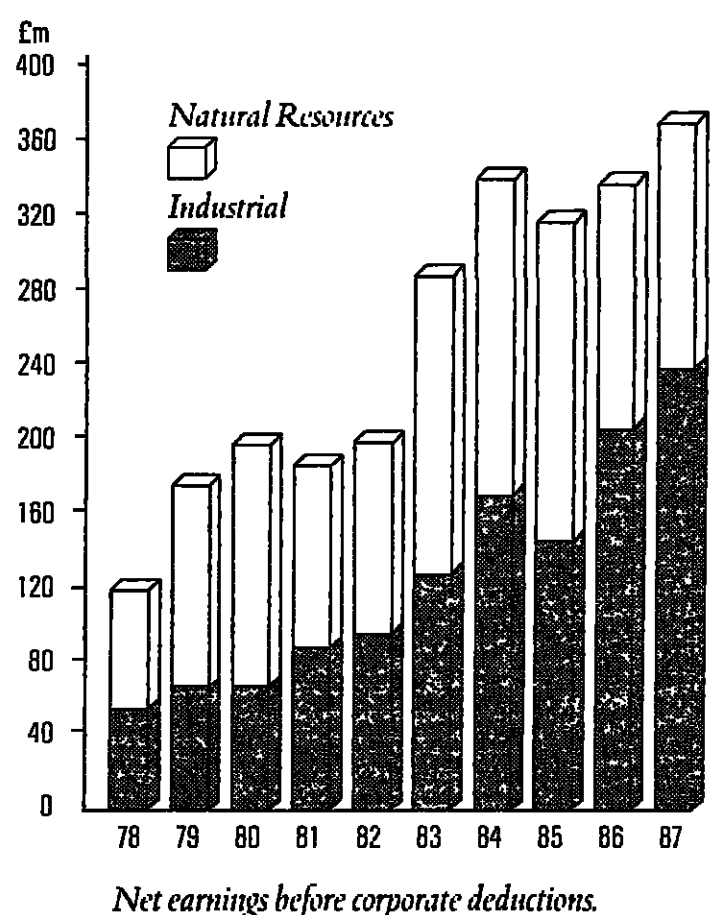
whispers that BTR, the industrial conglomerate, was building a stake in the group before launching a full bid. But a better bet is Jefferson Smurfit which has already signalled that it is on the look-out for suitable acquisitions.

**Michael Clark and
Geoffrey Foster**

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[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 25. Dealings end today. \$Contango day May 9. Settlement day May 16.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio and check your daily share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always leave your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change
1	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
2	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
3	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
4	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
5	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
6	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
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29	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00
30	Act On	Oil/Gas	100.00	0.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2.00 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

100% High Low Stock	Price	Change
1	100.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00
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27	100.00	0.00
28	100.00	0.00
29	100.00	0.00
30	100.00	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)		
1	100.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS		
1	100.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS		
1	100.00	0.00
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3	100.00	0.00
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BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change
1	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
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No.	Company	Group	Close	Change
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BREWERIES		
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BUILDING, ROADS		
1	100.00	0.00
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Elwyn-Jones, Lord
Lord Goff and Lord
agreed.

Yachting diary

Fay goes back to court for final say

By Barry Pickhall

Michael Fay, who leads the America's Cup challenge from New Zealand, returned to the New York Supreme Court yesterday in a final effort to force the New York Yacht Club to defend the trophy in a similar boat to his own 123ft monohull.

The argument, which also has implications for the challenges of Peter de Savary, of Britain, and Jaim Murray, of Australia, centres on the word "match".

The American interpretation is that it means a one-against-one series, with the defenders fielding any type of vessel, and have chosen a 60ft wing-masted catamaran.

Fay contends that the event must be a match between similar boats, pointing to letters from the last surviving donor who renounced with the New York Yacht Club, the first holders, during earlier attempts to engineer a successful defence.

The case is also likely to decide the date for the cup races in September. The New Zealanders insist that their court-imposed challenge must commence on September 19, a date reached by the initial court action, to their 10 month, two week notice of challenge which called for a June 1 start.

Tom Ehlman, the man responsible for organizing the defence, wants to change the date to September 3, to avoid a clash with the Olympics, and thereby maximize the opportunities for American sponsorship.

If the New Zealanders win their case, which is scheduled to be heard on May 18, then the cup races are likely to be postponed until May next year, to allow the Americans, British and Australians time to build monohulls.

Law backs out of contention

The expected contest for Britain's Olympic Soling berth, between Chris Arrow, the Blue Arrow skipper, and Peter de Savary's Victory helmsman, never materialized at Allassio, Italy, this week because Law returned home without racing against his rival.

Law flew to Italy earlier this week to compete in what starts tomorrow and forms part of the British trials, but after conferring with his crew, Chris Mason and Kendall Law, announced that he is to concentrate instead on his America's Cup ambitions.

The Sports Council, Royal Yachting Association and sponsors who contributed towards his £50,000 campaign, expect a swift return of their grants and patronage.

Smith said last week: "I'm sorry Law has bolted out, but I would be very grateful of the loss of his championship-winning boat and equipment."

Team named

Ian MacDonald-Smith, Tim Law, Andrew Hurst and Peter Nicholson, were selected yesterday to lead a yachting team, sponsored by Jaguar, to compete against the Seawanhaka Yacht Club, near New York, for the British-American Cup team race series in September.

Lexcen tribute

Sydney (AFP) — Australia's yachting fraternity turned out in force here yesterday for the funeral of Ben Lexcen, who died of a heart attack, after a long illness, at St Andrew's Cathedral. The mourners included John Howard, the Leader of the Opposition, and two former American Cup challengers, Syd Fischer and Sir James Hardie.

Among the floral tributes were those from Dennis Conner, the man who won back the America's Cup in Fremantle last year, and Michael Fay.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 Barclays League Second division
Birmingham v Leeds
Fourth division
Colchester v Tranmere

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division
7.45 Darlington v Preston; Wigan v Notts
SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION: Fulham v Oxford United; Watford v Barnsley
SUNDAY MIRROR LEAGUE: Premier division
Aston v Arsenal (7.45)
NORTON: Premier division
First division: Rotherham v Aldershot (7.45)
Second division: Rotherham v Aldershot (7.45)

CRICKET
11.0. 110 overs maximum
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Essex
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Kent
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Worcestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex

TRY THIS
by Paul Maher

AUTOSPORT 1,000km (at Silverstone): Jaguar will be looking for their third consecutive victory at Silverstone on Sunday in the Autosport 1,000km, the fourth round of the world sports prototype championships, when Martin Brundle, Graham Hill, Eddie Cheever, of the United States, and Jackie Stanger, of the United States, will be in the three-car entry. The last time a Jaguar won the 1,000km was in 1983, when Jackie Stanger, of the United States, won the race. There is no Porsche works team but five private cars take part, including the 960i Carrera RSR, the former world champion, piloted by a fellow-British, Tim Neeld.

ATHLETICS: PAYMASTERS ANNOUNCE CUTBACKS ACROSS THE BOARD

Performances at home the key to financial reward

Athletics paymasters are offering £25,000 to any British athlete who sets a world record on home soil this season. But they will cut by half the payments to any athlete who misses a top British meeting to compete abroad.

The 1988 appearance money (subvention) package, announced yesterday, was the bad news expected by Britain's top 150 competitors, who will suffer a heavy pay cut. But the financial bonuses and penalties are designed to ensure that the likes of Cram, Coe and Whitbread will have enough incentive not to desert the big British meetings for more lucrative foreign competition.

Last year, drastic over-spending meant that £252,000 in subventions was paid to athletes for competing in seven stipulated British events. This year's budget is £480,000, spread over just five events. Leading athletes such as Cram, the biggest earner last year, who was collecting £15,000 a meeting, will now have to negotiate subventions with three nominated officials. Financial limits to what the elite can earn have been set, and Tony Ward, the British Amateur Athletic Board spokesman, said that they would not be as high as 1987, although a five-figure sum was still possible.

To soften the blow, the elite have the chance of scooping £25,000 for a world record, and £5,000 for a British record, as

long as it is of such quality to have ranked them in the world's top 12 last year. Bousques of £1,000 and £500 are on offer to those who achieve performances which would have put them in the world's top six or 12, respectively, in 1987.

"It's a new and attractive scheme," Ward said. "We are clearly looking for our athletes to produce the goods on home territory."

Officials hope the £25,000 will be enough to end the dearth of world and British track records set at home. For, despite the exploits of Cram, Coe and Overt, only one of their 17 world-beating runs was staged in Britain; and it was 16 years ago when Peter Stewart became the last man to set either a domestic mile or 1,500 metres record on a British track.

The other innovation of financial penalties for "stay aways" is more controversial. Any athlete who refuses an invitation to compete in a subvention meeting, and then takes part at another event in the two days before or four days after the meeting, will have their total payment for the season cut by half. "We want to see our athletes keeping faith with Britain, and think it's a fair system," Ward said.

As for the huge pay cuts, he explained: "The subvention system, based on objective criteria, last year was a bit

inflexible and led to horrendous problems of over-spending. This year, we are seeing a return to the once predominant market forces, where the payments are judged on athletes' public appeal, as well as their past record and present form."

Subvention limits have been established across the board, ranging from £100 for lesser-known internationals to £3,000 for those presumably reckoned to be B category — just below the elite level. A measure of the spending clamp-down is that a B-category athlete last year could have expected to pick up £7,000.

Another indication of officials' new belt-tightening exercise is that, unlike last year, when the subvention level was guaranteed all summer, this season the payments can be cut if negotiators are unhappy with an athlete's loss of form.

Subventions were paid to attract athletes such as Cram and Overt to the AAA championships in 1987. This season, with the new look AAA/WAAA championships acting as the Olympic trial, officials have not felt it necessary to offer financial inducements to lure the big names. A place in Seoul should be incentive enough, they believe.

As usual, athletes who refuse to take a drugs test anywhere in the world, or who are found positive, will forfeit their subvention for the year.

BOXING

Watson is willing to bide his time

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Michael Watson, the 151lb middleweight, is in no hurry to capitalize on his victory over Ricky Stachouse at the Grand Hall, Wembley, on Wednesday.

Watson stopped the American in four rounds but was not making too much of the fact that he had beaten Stachouse, Britain's top middleweight, took eight rounds to finish off Stachouse. John Tate, the world champion, six rounds and Roberto Duran had to go the distance. "God made time and plenty of it. My time will come," Watson said.

Even if one takes into account that Stachouse is little more than "an opponent" these days it was a good result for Watson. But Stachouse warned: "Watson is as strong as Graham but not as clever."

Wisely, Watson said he was going to watch Graham box James Cooke in the British title bout in June to "size out" Graham. Watson added: "I am going to have a rest and then go to Florida in July and see what it is all about in America."

In the meantime, he should move up from No. 11 in the world to Stachouse's nineteenth position.

Watson's victory makes a meeting with Nigel Benn, the knock-out specialist from West Ham, even more attractive than before. But that is a bout that the British fans will have to wait for. Watson and Benn are going

their separate ways for a world title challenge in about a year's time.

Duke McKenzie, the world No. 1 flyweight contender, who has waited and waited for his world title chance, is getting anxious. After his contest with José Gallegos, aged 23, of Mexico, which was little more than a workout, McKenzie said he would be talking to his manager, Mickey Duff, about more meaningful contests.

"I don't want to fight like that again," he said of his bout with the Gallegos, "but I will still fight. It is not what the public want."

McKenzie has been offered a world title bout by Sot Chitalada, of Thailand, in Bangkok in July. Duff is trying to bring Chitalada to London but an impatient McKenzie said yesterday: "I don't mind where I have to go for the world title."

Jim McDonnell beat Angel Hernandez, of Mexico, easily enough but his supporters went away a little disturbed about his chin. McDonnell usually steers clear of trouble and boxes from a distance, but this time he tried to carry the fight to Hernandez and in the process was caught by a not too heavy left hook and was in trouble.

While McDonnell recovered and went on to give the Mexican a pasting, his boasts about beating Barry McGuigan looked a little empty.

Winners not certain of an Olympic place

By Srikumar Sen

After the shocks along the ABA title trail, culminating in the defeat of Neville Brown, the European light-middleweight bronze medal winner, Britain's Olympic selectors are faced with some difficult decisions.

Clive Howe, executive director of the ABA, said yesterday: "An ABA title does not automatically guarantee a place for the Olympics. Past records of boxers have to be taken into account. There are some who lost in the earlier rounds through cuts and one boxer even had influenza."

This means that Wayne Ellis, of Wales, who stopped Brown in the first round in the semi-finals, could still find himself out in the cold even if he wins the title tonight at Wembley Arena, or having to prove himself again in a box-off. The selectors are expected to announce their party tomorrow.

However, there should be no doubt of John Lyon's selection. The Greenall's, St Helens, flyweight, should set a record with his scratch title. His coach, Tony Smart, who has trained many ABA champions, including Keith Wallace, the Giltblades, and Gary Stretch, believes that

Lyon not only will set a record but will go on to win his eighth world title. At the age of 26 he will not become a professional. Pilkingtons have put £10,000 into a trust fund for his training and whatever is left at the end of his career.

Lyon meets Drew Docherty (Croy Miners) again and should outpoint him. "Docherty has come on a bit but having been beaten three times by Lyon the seeds of doubt are there," Smart said.

The bout of the night should be between the heavyweights, Harold Hylton and Henry Akimwande. Hylton (Luton) is a former world champion and Akimwande (Luton) is a former world champion. Hylton is a former world champion and Akimwande (Luton) is a former world champion.

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BASKETBALL

Dismissal for Dixon

By Nicholas Harling

Rob Dixon, the American coach of Leicester City Riders, has paid for the club's failure to reach the American national championship play-offs last season. His second spell in charge has ended in dismissal.

"The season just did not come up to expectations," Steve Wicks, a Leicester director, said yesterday. Leicester finished a disappointing season in ninth place with a team that "just seemed to lack heart", according to Wicks.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Bradford finish season with unbeaten record

By Michael Stevenson

The 1987-88 season was notable for the new legislation which allowed old colours returning to play but too old for representative schools rugby, to play for England Colts. Jason Head, of Epsom, a very promising stand-off half who played for England Schools the previous season, was the first to benefit from this innovation.

The exploits of Bradford GS dominated competition, and when they had beaten Kirkham GS (10-3) in the final of the Preston Festival, their record from 49 games was 48 wins and one draw with 1,157 points for and 127 against. Already they are looking ahead to the tour of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. They will also be entertaining Black Rock College, Royal School Doncaster and Palmerston North HS from New Zealand. The most notable addition to next season's fixture list, however, is Ampleforth.

McCall to miss tour

Brian McCall, the Irish international lock, has been forced to withdraw from the Combined Services and British Police party which leaves today for a seven-week tour of New Zealand.

He failed a fitness test on Wednesday on a hamstring damaged during the tour party's game against Neath last month.

The blow is all the more serious because McCall was the captain of the party. The leadership now passes to Sutton, also a lock and the only remaining international who took part in the World Cup in New Zealand last year, as a member of Wales's squad. Dear (Metropolitan Police) is added to the playing party as a replacement for McCall.



Clifton Chapel and John Lowe gain a hard-fought success in the Dee Stakes at Chester yesterday. The Steve Norton-trained winner will now run in next month's Ever Ready Derby

Thomas comes in from the cold for cup success

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Taffy Thomas, the forgotten man of British racing, stole the limelight yesterday when bringing Old Hubbert home 10 lengths clear of Tom Sharp to claim his first victory in the Ladbrokes Chester Cup on Alan Bailey's seven-year-old gelding.

Gary Bardwell had originally been booked to partner the 33-1 winner on Wednesday but yesterday was claimed to ride at Salisbury. "I was sitting at home doing nothing when I got a call asking if I was available," said Thomas.

The 43-year-old Welsh light-weight jockey has recently been in action in Malaysia and Singapore, where he rode more than 40 winners. "I went for a weekend but stayed for over 16 months," he said.

The advancing years have not increased Thomas's poundage. "I had to carry a big saddle, but I was used to it. I weigh 7st 2lb after a big breakfast."

The heavy ground, as usually happens in these circumstances, made a nonsense of the form book. And the race was decided long before Thomas sent Old Hubbert past the pace-making Tom Sharp early in the straight.

"I thought he was lame at the start and nearly took him out. But I knew we'd win over three furlongs from home," Thomas said.

Sproston Boy, the 9-2 favourite, finished fourth, 19 lengths behind the winner and 14 lengths behind the top weight, also finished well beaten.

The saturated ground may also have contributed to the unexpected defeat of Sir Harry Lewis in the Ormonde Stakes.

Last season's Irish Derby winner started 7-4 on but could only finish third, 23 lengths behind Mr Pinfin, the 20-1 winner. Lemhill, the last horse home, was over a furlong in arrears and the time of 3min 26.49sec, was

about 35 seconds slower than that taken by Rakaposhi King in the corresponding race in 1987.

However, cannot be blamed entirely for this amazing result. "He was never going at any stage of the race," said Barry Hills as Sir Harry Lewis walked round the undressing enclosure in obvious distress.

"He's got some form of cramp behind. He could well be on his back. I'll leave him at the racecourse stables overnight and see how he is in the morning. We're lucky to be here at all. The ground is virtually unrideable."

Mr Pinfin, who finished second to Sproston Boy in last autumn's November handicap at Doncaster, was ridden by the in-form William Carson and is trained by William Hastings-Bass at Newmarket.

The 175th running of the Dee Stakes threw up a lively outsider for the Derby when John Lowe and Clifton Chapel just got the better of Paul Eddery and Nickie Plater.

Dick Hern had taken out Golden Wave because of the

going and Apache, the 15-8 favourite, was another absentee after being found to be lame at the start.

Clifton Chapel will now attempt to become the first Yorkshire-trained winner of the Epsom Derby since Pretender in 1869. "I think we'll probably run him," said Steve Norton, "but we certainly wouldn't want the going to be firm."

Lindsay Charnock was called before the stewards after the Silver Handicap, won by Master Palehouse, because he did not appear to ride out to the line on Crimpsall, who was beaten a short head for third.

Charnock told them that the filly trained by Mick Easterby had given her all and that he had stopped riding to "gather her up and hold her together as she had bad joints."

The stewards did not accept his explanations and fined him £150 for failing to ride out for the third place.

Carson completed a 514-1 double on the Richard Hammond-trained Because in the Sceptre Maiden Stakes.

Sir Peter has had to lead the association through the long and difficult negotiations over a new three-year contract. It is understood that Sir Peter Long's original three-year contract expires this summer but that he has signed another contract which ends in the summer of 1989.

For instance, Guy Harwood, the Sussex trainer, recently pointed out in *The Times* that there is a strong feeling that the owner-trainers, who make a great deal of money, should be asked to contribute to the sport as a whole and consequently to their weaker brethren. It is a highly political post.

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Afternoon results from two meetings

Chester

Going: heavy

2.15 (m) 1. DUCK FLIGHT (R Cochrane, 3-1) 2. Nagem (A Proud, 5-1) 3. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 4. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 5. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 6. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 7. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 8. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 9. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 10. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 11. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 12. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 13. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 14. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 15. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 16. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 17. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 18. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 19. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 20. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 21. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 22. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 23. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 24. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 25. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 26. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 27. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 28. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 29. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 30. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 31. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 32. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 33. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 34. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 35. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 36. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 37. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 38. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 39. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 40. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 41. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 42. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 43. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 44. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 45. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 46. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 47. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 48. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 49. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 50. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 51. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 52. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 53. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 54. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 55. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 56. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 57. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 58. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 59. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 60. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 61. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 62. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 63. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 64. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 65. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 66. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 67. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 68. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 69. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 70. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 71. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 72. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 73. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 74. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 75. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 76. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 77. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 78. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 79. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 80. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 81. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 82. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 83. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 84. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 85. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 86. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 87. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 88. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 89. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 90. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 91. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 92. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 93. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 94. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 95. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 96. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 97. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 98. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 99. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 100. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 101. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 102. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 103. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 104. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 105. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 106. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 107. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 108. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 109. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 110. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 111. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 112. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 113. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 114. R. H. H. (A Proud, 5-1) 115. R. H. H

Point House to outclass Lingfield rivals

By Mandarin

With the possible exception of Dick Hern, no trainer appears to have a more powerful arsenal of three-year-old colts this season than Luca Cumani.

Kahyasi and Kefauk, both due to contest major Derby trials within the next five days, already hold prominent positions in the early season and have good scope for further substantial improvement.

Conceivably, though, POINT HOUSE could be the pick of the crop and be a contender for the St James's Palace Stakes at Lingfield this afternoon.

A promising fourth when

apprentice-ridden and the stable's second string on his Yearling debut last September, Point House has been working well all spring with the best of Cumani's classic generation and as a result, was heavily backed on his reappearance in the Royal Maria XO Stakes at Headquarters three weeks ago.

Despite looking a little backward in condition, the outcome of the seven-furlong contest was never in doubt once Ray Cochrane mounted a challenge on the favourite and the winning margin of half a length scarcely indicates his superiority over Belfield.

The runner-up, who has some excellent juvenile form, emphasized what a good performance it was by finishing third to Doyenne in last Saturday's 2,000 Guineas.

In the light of those two Newmarket races, it would not be stretching the covers of the form book too far to suggest that Point House could well have played a leading role in the outcome of the first colts' classic had he been allowed to take his chance.

A further indication of the esteem in which the son of Dieris is held at Bedford House can be gleaned from the fact that he has already been entered for group one prizes such as the St James's Palace Stakes and the Coral-Eclipse.

Hallo Vaigly should be winning soon and looks the best of today's opposition but it will come as a surprise if he is able to cope with Point House, even in receipt of 8lb.

Michael Steele, trainer of Bello Vaigly, saddles one of his

nine Derby entries, Fame And Glory, in the opening Twinkling Stakes but his preference here is for KNIGHT LINE DANCER, who runs in this race rather than take on Kahyasi and company in tomorrow's Calor Derby Trial.

Reinister, denied a run at Falmouth on Wednesday by the weather, should also help to make matters interesting.

Nick Vigors, who enjoyed a welcome change of fortune when Gummater opened his seasonal account at Kempton on Tuesday night, has bright prospects, landing a double with CHAIN SHOT and GILDERDALE.

Chain Shot, my selection for the Newmarket Gladstone Handicap, was beaten by the notorious Sandown draw last time after finishing a good second to the much better Tyrion

Belle at Newbury on his reappearance.

Gilderdale, a most consistent handicapper over seven furlongs and a mile, stands out in the Acco Europa Handicap after his excellent show to Wing Park in Ascot's Victoria Cup nine days ago. Further rain, however, would not enhance his chance.

At Hamilton, EASY LINE, a good second to Restore at Kempton on Tuesday night, makes a quick reappearance in the Plumb Center Grundfos Pump Handicap and should go one better.

That talented dual-purpose



Dick Hern: trains the well-backed Derby hope Emmson

Emmson is backed on two fronts

Emmson, stable companion of Derby favourite Unifun, was

backed with the sponsors for

next week's Mecca-Dante at

York, for which he is 3-1 from

7-1 and the firm have cut him

two points to 12-1 for the Derby.

Mecca also report Dante

money for Glacial Storm, now

7-1 from 9-1, and as a result

have eased the first two in the

betting, Kahyasi and Sanquillo,

to 5-2 (from 9-4) and 3-1 (from

14-1) respectively.

Dick Hern's colt was also

backed with the sponsors for

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Mecca also report Dante

Fate deals a cruel blow to owner's lifelong ambition

By Brian Beel

There are moments in sport

when clation turns to dejection

and there was no more poignant

example of this than in the final

of the Audi Prix de Chasse at

Cheltenham on Wednesday

evening.

David Welch, point-to-point

correspondent of *The Daily*

Telegraph, has always had the

ambition to own a horse and

this became a reality when he

purchased Allen Lad, a cast-off

from Winter's yard. He

had one aim in mind, to win the

Audi final.

Allen Lad impressed so much

in a novice hurdle win at

Towcester three years ago that

Winter thought he had a potential

Gold Cup horse. However,

problems developed and, although

he was in the frame in three

novice chases, he did not live

up to expectations.

He was pin-fired and sent to

last year's November Ascot

sales. On the advice of livery

yard owner, Dick Bainbridge,

Welch bought him for 6,000

guineas.

Bainbridge was convinced the

horse had unfulfilled ability

and, still a maiden over fences,

was an ideal choice with the

Audi in mind.

After a season's hunting with

the Berkeley, Allen Lad went to

Larkhill for his first point-to-

point in February and was in the

lead after two miles but faded

and was pulled up. It did not

take Bainbridge long to diagnose

his problem and he was

On his next outing, Allen Lad

qualified for Wednesday's race

by beating Curlew Boy at

Didmarton and then ran up a

sequence of three successes in

ladies' open races under the

experienced Alison Dare who

was convinced that he was the

best horse she had ever ridden.

Everything was on course for

Cheltenham and, although

David Welch told all his readers

of his high hopes, with a little

more knowledge than was

revealed, he was able to enhance

the excitement further with a tilt

at the ring where the odds were

greater than his probable chance

of winning.

Alison Dare, as usual, rode a

superb race and still had some-

thing in hand when coming to

the last fence in the lead.

Previously, Allen Lad had

shown that he could fiddle a

jump when not meeting it

perfectly but on this occasion he

was too bold, taking off a

fraction too early, overstretch-

ing and crumpling on landing.

Within a very short while the

screens were around him.

Preparations for the next race

continued. The vets were in

attendance as Welch stood for-

lornly, agonizing as the minutes

dragged on.

As the runners for the next

race went down to the post,

Allen Lad stirred and was

coaxed on to his front legs but

could get no further; his back

had gone.

The loss of a good horse is a

cruel blow to anyone. When the

loss is to a first-time owner, only

seconds away from achieving a

planned objective, it is magni-

fied ten-fold.

And when it is to a first-time

owner who has given so much to

popularize the sport of point-to-

pointing, the sadness is shared

by all.

RESULTS: SOUTH SHROPSHIRE: Hunt: 1. Miley Secret Love (J. Griffiths); 2. Eric's

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